We're no den of thieves, says Chief Justice Davide

STORY ON PAGE A2

154 sick deportees arrive in Tawi-Tawi

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Blanche S. Rivera, *in Manila*

SOME 500 Filipinos, including 154 suffering from various illnesses, arrived in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, from Sandakan on the Philippine Coast Guard's BRP San Juan yesterday morning.

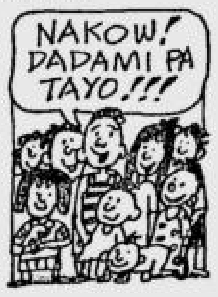
154 SICK/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Last call for condoms

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The last condom supply to the Philippines will be shipped in November, according to Oscar Mabalot, Population Commission regional director.


NAKOW! DADAMI PA TAYO!!!

LAST/A6

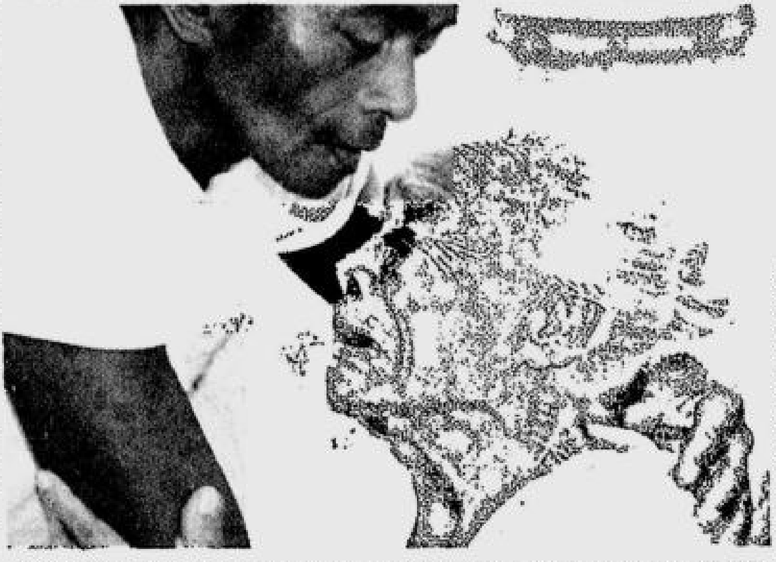
e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, September 4, 2002 ★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 268 P15 website: www.inq7.net

HOMEBOUND: Juhan Ibno, 2, and Rosa, 3 months old, are sick on board the BRP Bacolod in the Karamunting port in Sandakan.

STOP INHUMAN TREATMENT OF FILIPINOS IN MALAYSIA! GABRIELA

INNOCENTS are drawn to a rally in front of the Malaysian Embassy.

ERIK ARAZAS



MOTHER and son, Sahara Asara and Asiri, are reunited on board BRP Bacolod after the latter spent two weeks in jail in Kota Kinabalu.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

Outrage over sex abuse

Palace calls for sobriety

By Armand N. Nocum, Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

OUTRAGE greeted a report that seven policemen in Tawao, Malaysia, had turned detained Filipino Christian women into sex slaves before deporting them.

Legislators, women's and Church groups, and those helping overseas workers closed ranks with some calling for the castration of the rapists, filing of a class suit against the Malaysian government, and the boycott of Malaysian products.

But as passions flared, Malacañang appealed for sobriety.

A 13-year-old girl sexually abused by Malaysian policemen was among some 500 Filipinos who arrived in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, from Sandakan on a Philippine Coast Guard ship yesterday morning.

Dr. Al Wajer Himpon said the girl "complained of sexual abuse by Malaysian jail guards."

The girl, identified only as Tsina *(singkit siya)*, needs im-

OUTRAGE/A18

FREEDOM is just a ship away for these Filipino illegals detained in Tawao in Sabah, Malaysia. About 50,000 more are scheduled for deportation.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Is Piatco a dummy of German firm?

By Rocky Nazareno

GERMAN firm Fraport AG "effectively controls" Naia Terminal 3 concessionaire Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. in a possible "layering" anomaly, Senate blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo disclosed yesterday.

The layers of "inter-locking ownership" could explain the government's bold move to take over the controversial project, he added.

Arroyo made the disclosure after yesterday's hearing on the Piatco contract.

IS PIATCO/A18

Defensor named AFP chief today

By Carlito Pablo, Rocky Nazareno and Martin Marfil

IT'S the President's choice, and she will make it today.

Both Malacañang and the Armed Forces yesterday defended the prerogative of President Macapagal-Arroyo to name the next AFP chief of staff—even an officer who is retirable on Sept. 12.

But in the Senate, the man who served the shortest term as the military's top general, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, urged his colleagues to immediately pass a bill that

DEFENSOR/A17

'I am allergic to awards but this one is special'

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

FROM East Germany, she fled to freedom in the West. From a secular background, she converted to Catholicism and joined a religious congregation. From post-Nazi Europe, she went to Pakistan, a young country roiling in poverty, disease and political turmoil, there to work among leprosy sufferers for the rest of her life and bring about dramatic changes.

"If I were to live my life all over again, I would have no objection," reflects Dr. Ruth Pfau, a medical doctor and Catholic nun who is one of the six Ramon Magsaysay Awardees for 2002. Her award is for public service, "for her lifelong dedication to eradicate leprosy and its stigma in Pakistan and other loving gifts to her adopted country."

Pfau, who turns 73 this week, was at the Pakistan-Afghan border, near the Himalayan range, among Afghan refugees when news reached

I AM/A6

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

MAGSAYSAY awardee for public service, Dr. Ruth Pfau: A heartwarming nun's story.

'He behaved like spoiled child'

By Stella O. Gonzales

NOW, the shoe—a black Ferragamo, size 11 1/2—is on the other foot.

Senate President Franklin Drilon should not have expected security screeners at the San Francisco International Airport to extend him courtesy accorded to diplomats because he failed to make prior arrangements with the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco.

This was according to an American airport security employee who said he was present when a screener manning a checkpoint stopped Drilon and asked him to remove his shoes for a security check on Saturday night. He was on his way back to the Philippines from a speaking engagement.

Drilon had found the incident extremely embarrassing for someone of his stature. Yesterday, he said he would ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to call Washington's attention to it.

In contrast, First Gentleman

HE BEHAVED/A17

2004 RACE BEGINS

Roco fires opening salvo

By Donna S. Cueto

HOLD high the posters. The battle for the premier political prize in 2004 is joined.

Former Education Secretary Raul S. Roco yesterday turned the tables on his former boss and perceived rival in the 2004 presidential elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying that his posters were legal but that hers were not since they were "donated by private individuals."

Roco said he was also "curious" about the President's posters in the toilets in Cubao and the "GMA Cares" billboards in Sta. Mesa, Kamuning and all over the nation. Were they also sourced from private donors?

Roco noted that the President's husband himself, Mr. Mike Arroyo, had admitted that the posters were donations. Which could make the President liable for graft and for violation of the Civil Code because public officials are not allowed by law to receive private donations.

ROCO/A6

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

PRETTY poster kicks off ugly political war at a press conference where former Education Secretary Raul Roco answers the complaint against him filed by the DepED central office union employees.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/04/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

We're no den of thieves–Davide

By Michael Lim Ubac

A NEST with some bad eggs, maybe, but not a den of thieves.

Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide yesterday defended the judiciary amid accusations of rampant corruption among judges and prosecutors.

In a speech delivered at the Ramon Magsaysay Center in Pasay City, the reclusive Chief Magistrate admitted that there were "bad eggs" within Philippine courts, but said these were "an absolute minority."

Davide received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service on Saturday. Yesterday's speech was part of the RM awardees' lecture series.

Trying not to sound confrontational, Davide said, "I repeat, (the Philippine judiciary is) not a den of hoodlums." He said the accusations most likely came from "disgruntled" litigants, and were "truly unfair."

Yet, he said, doubts have remained in the public mind, and this was "a cause for concern."

He stressed: "We cannot settle for anything less than the people's full faith and confidence."

Credibility

On the other hand, Davide pointed out, it couldn't be said that the judiciary should work to restore the justice system's credibility, because this would imply that the credibility was gone.

"Public trust in the system may have waned," he said, "but I believe it was never lost, or else anarchy would have reigned."

He disclosed that out of 25,000 employees and court officials, only about 600 had been found guilty and sanctioned by the high court in the last three years, or since he assumed his post in 1999. Out of the 600, he said, 352 were magistrates "disciplined for various offenses."

"I wish to emphasize that the judiciary has not been sitting idly in the face of proven charges against its members," Davide said, "because the effectiveness of the courts is firmly rooted in the public's trust."

Court decisions were mere scraps of paper without the people's faith in the justice system, Davide said. He likened cultivating confidence in the courts to gardening:

"The gardener, in the exercise of his authority, plants a seed. Despite his authority, the gardener cannot will the seed to blossom into a tree; he cannot order or coerce it to become a tall oak. The seed, like the people's trust, cannot grow without nurturing."

Gardener's seed

Thus, he said, the gardener must provide the seed with sufficient care and protection.

"Soon the gardener will have his tree, and in return for his labors the tree will give him shade and fruit. So it is with the people's faith. Once it is as strong as a mature tree, the courts can rely on this faith to carry them through unjustified attacks."

Davide said the judiciary should "command authority" to earn the people's trust. And to command authority, a court official should "render judicial services with utmost competence."

He said competence was manifested in two areas—expertise in the dispensation of duties, and accountability to the people.

To develop competence among court officials, Davide said the Supreme Court was supporting judges and personnel with a continuing program implemented by the Philippine Judicial Academy, the SC's education arm.

At the same time, he said, "to discourage straying from the straight and narrow path," the SC has aggressively cracked the whip on erring employees and officials.

Davide said the SC was likewise pursuing the Action Program for Judicial Reform or APJR, a six-year program outlining initiatives that would "revolutionize" delivery of justice in the country.

The APJR covers administrative concerns, facility requirements, human resources development, and support systems.

"With all these efforts (being undertaken), it is necessary to ask if the Philippine judiciary has been able to strengthen its credibility," Davide said. "Judging from news reports and public reactions, I (must) say we have a long way to go."

Solons hopeful for death convicts

By C. Avendaño

CONGRESS may be just a step away from convincing President Macapagal-Arroyo to stay the execution of all death convicts.

This after a House resolution, supported by 131 congressmen was filed Monday night urging the President to declare a moratorium on executions pending deliberations on a bill that would repeal Republic Act 7659 or the Death Penalty Law.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said yesterday she would transmit House Resolution No. 20 immediately to the Senate, which had agreed to come up with a joint resolution with the House on the stay of executions.

"They (senators) can adopt the resolution or use it as a basis for their own resolution," said Rosales who, with Siquijor Rep. Orlando Fua Jr., authored the two-page document.

Rosales said she was elated by the response of her colleagues to the abolition of the death penalty, noting that the 131 legislators who supported the House resolution made up a "comfortable majority." The House has 215 members.

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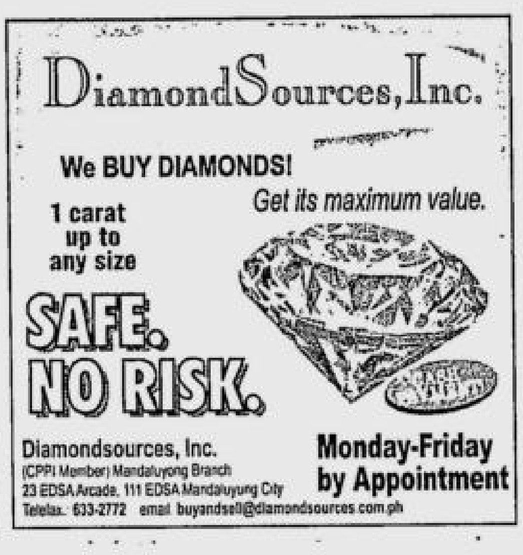

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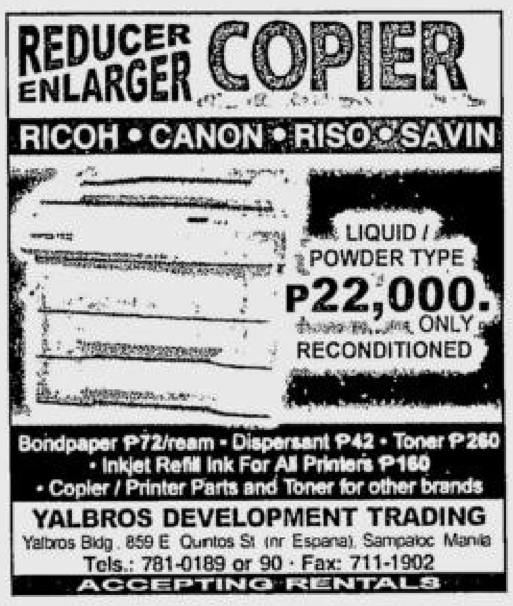

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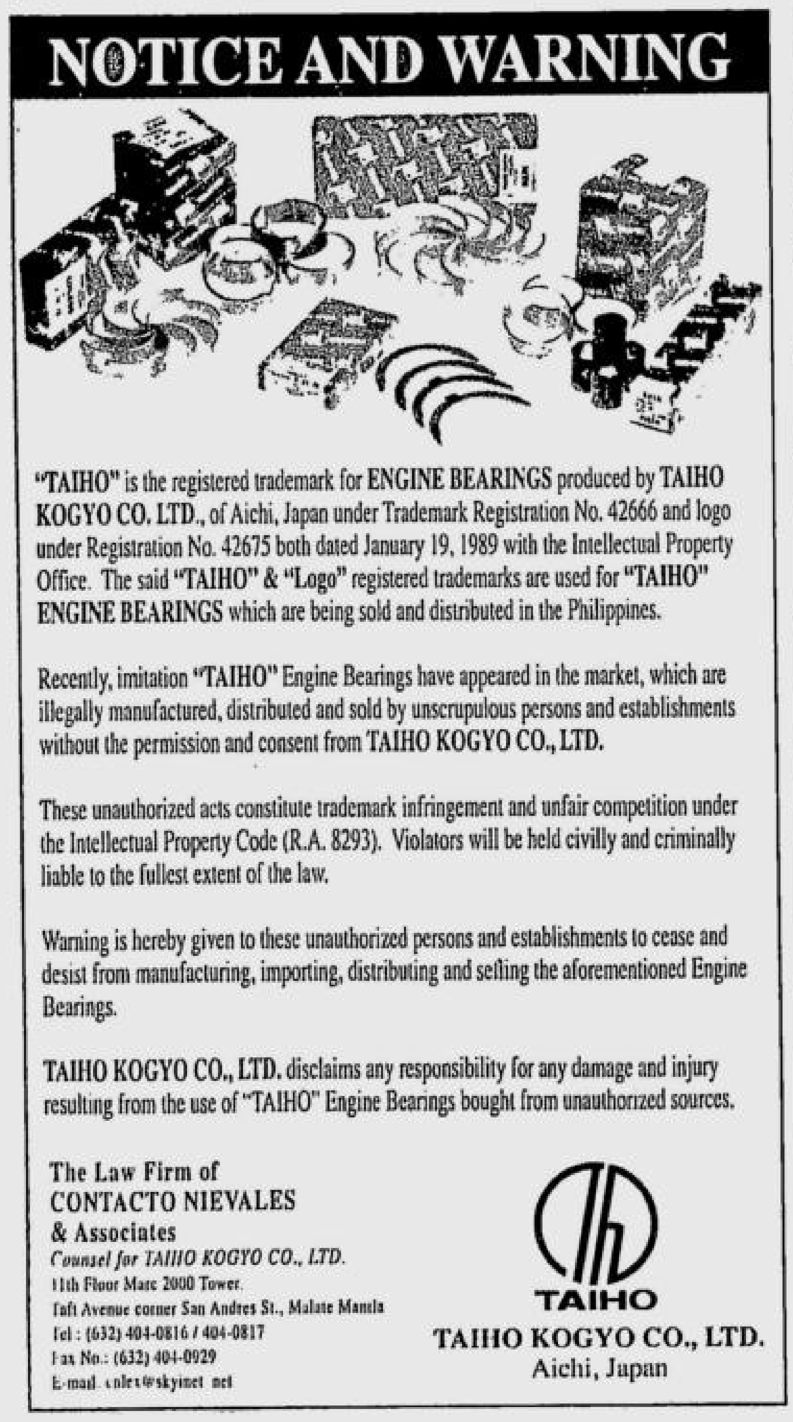

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Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB)
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Notice is hereby given that decisions/resolutions were promulgated by the Honorable Board in the following cases on the date indicated:

DARAB Case No.	Title	Date Promulgated
6153 (Decision)	Paquito Ubanos vs. Jose Lacson et al.	June 26, 2000
6941 (Resolution)	Danilo Chua vs. Antonio Zapra et al.	January 30, 2002

Counsels and parties to these cases, particularly the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last known Address
6153	Jose Lacson	Brgy. Cadiz Viejo, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental
	Rolando Laguna	Brgy. Cadiz Viejo, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental
6941	Atty. Romulo Gorospe	Guimba, Nueva Ecija

are hereby advised to get a copy of the decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on these cases shall become final and executory.

August 26, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

August 28 & September 4, 2002 – Inquirer

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Caltex hikes prices by 49¢; others follow suit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMERS will now pay 49 centavos more per liter of kerosene and 39 centavos more per liter of gasoline or diesel, if they patronize Caltex, which led the latest round of oil price hikes at noon yesterday.

Eastern Petroleum follows suit at noon today, increasing prices of all products by 35 centavos per liter.

New oil firm TotalFinalElf Philippines said it would soon increase gasoline and diesel prices also by 39 centavos per liter. Total does not sell kerosene.

This is the sixth round of oil price hikes this year.

Petron, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Seaoil Petroleum and Flying V said they had not decided to adjust their prices.

Caltex Philippines spokesperson Marian Catedral said the company's decision was a response to factors affecting supply, demand, competition, and the local marketplace.

"These pressures are currently impacting prices globally," she said. International kerosene prices showed a "significantly steeper uptrend" than those of other products, she explained.

Historically, prices of kerosene, a "socially sensitive" fuel, increased by smaller amounts compared to gasoline, and just as much as diesel rates.

"Average kerosene prices in the first half of August stood at $27.90 per barrel and shot up to $30.40 in the second half of the month," Catedral said.

This meant an increase of $2.50 per barrel of kerosene, while increases for other products in the same period were below $2, she said.

The last time oil companies hiked prices, by 30 centavos per liter, was on Aug. 11.

Caltex's increases came a day after consumer welfare advocate Raul Concepcion said oil prices would go up by 39 centavos a liter this month.

Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, noted that Dubai crude prices went up by 57 cents, from $24.67 per barrel in July to $25.24 in August.

On the other hand, the peso depreciated by P1.20, from P50.62 to the dollar in July to P51.82 last month.

As a rule, local prices went up by 35 centavos per liter for every dollar increase in Dubai crude prices, and by 18 centavos for every peso lost to the dollar.

Explaining Eastern Petroleum's lower hikes, chair Fernando Martinez said, "(The upped rate) reflects our costs. It is also a way to get more consumers to patronize our products."

Norway seeks extradition of RP sailor for collision

OSLO—Norway is to demand the extradition of Ronnie Zape, the Filipino officer who was commanding the Norwegian chemical tanker Bow Eagle at the time of a fatal collision with a fishing boat last week and who is currently in the Netherlands, police said Monday.

"As the investigation proceeds, police will now launch a procedure to obtain the extradition of First Lt. Ronnie Zape from the Netherlands," said Svein Erik Krogvold, chief of police of the western city of Bergen.

Four of seven crew on the sunken French trawler the Cistude are missing and believed dead in the wake of the Aug. 26 collision off the Brittany coast.

The crew of the Bow Eagle face possible charges of manslaughter, fleeing the scene of an accident and failing to provide assistance.

Antonyo Andres, a 26-year-old midshipman who was by Zape's side at the time of the accident, will not be charged, but will serve as a witness in the case, Bergen police said.

Both men are still aboard the Bow Eagle, which is in the Dutch port of Rotterdam.

Krogvold said police would continue investigating the cause of the accident and any criminal responsibility stemming from "events following the collision." The 15,000-ton Bow Eagle, 170 meters long, continued on its way after the crash without initiating rescue procedures.

Zape and Andres, also of the Philippines, at first claimed to have been unaware of the collision with the 26-meter trawler, but Andres reportedly relented after overcoming pressure from Zape.

Government sources here said France and Norway had agreed that the Bow Eagle's captain and crew will be tried in Norway should they press charges. Maritime law dictates that crew involved in incidents in international waters be tried by the country whose flag they were flying.

The collision has proved a great embarrassment to Norway, proud of its maritime traditions.

Local media and the Association of Sea Professionals sought to deflect some of the criticism by pointing out that only Filipino members the crew were in charge at the time, and that they initially said they had not been aware of the impact. *AFP*

LGUs told to monitor drive vs drugs, 'jueteng'

INTERIOR Secretary Joey Lina has ordered local government units to create multi-sectoral teams to monitor the presence of illegal gambling and illegal drug trade activities.

Lina issued Department Order 2002-677 requiring the creation of city/municipal multi-sectoral monitoring teams (C/MMT) for cities and municipalities within 60 days, National Police Commission vice chair Rogelio Pureza said yesterday.

The interior secretary is also the Napolcom chair.

Each C/MMT is to be composed of the DILG city/municipal operations officer and representatives from the religious sector, the media, the academe and one nongovernment organization.

Private-sector representatives would be given preference in the chairmanship of the teams, Pureza said in a statement. ***Leila Salaverria***

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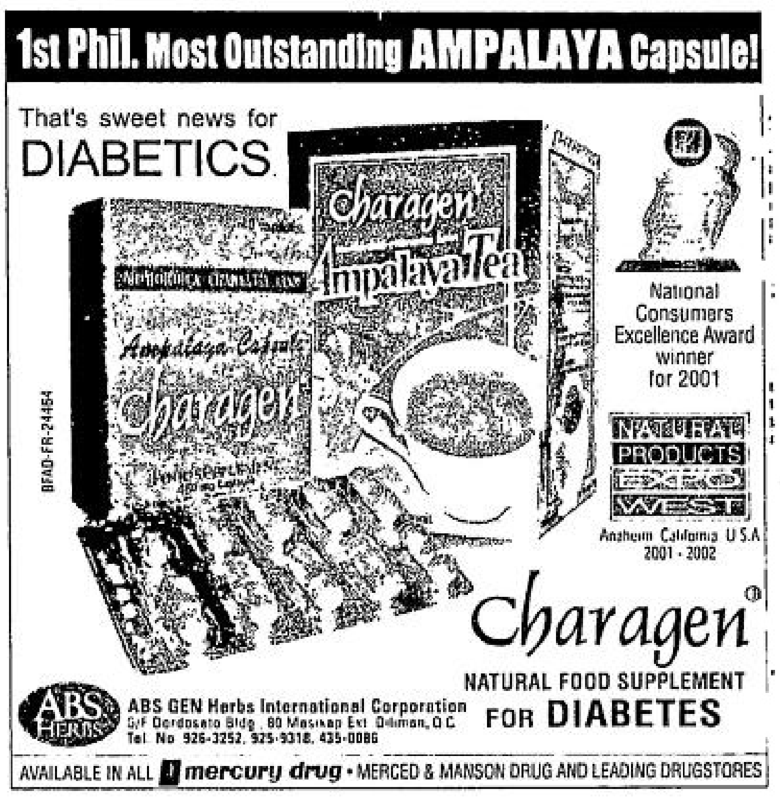

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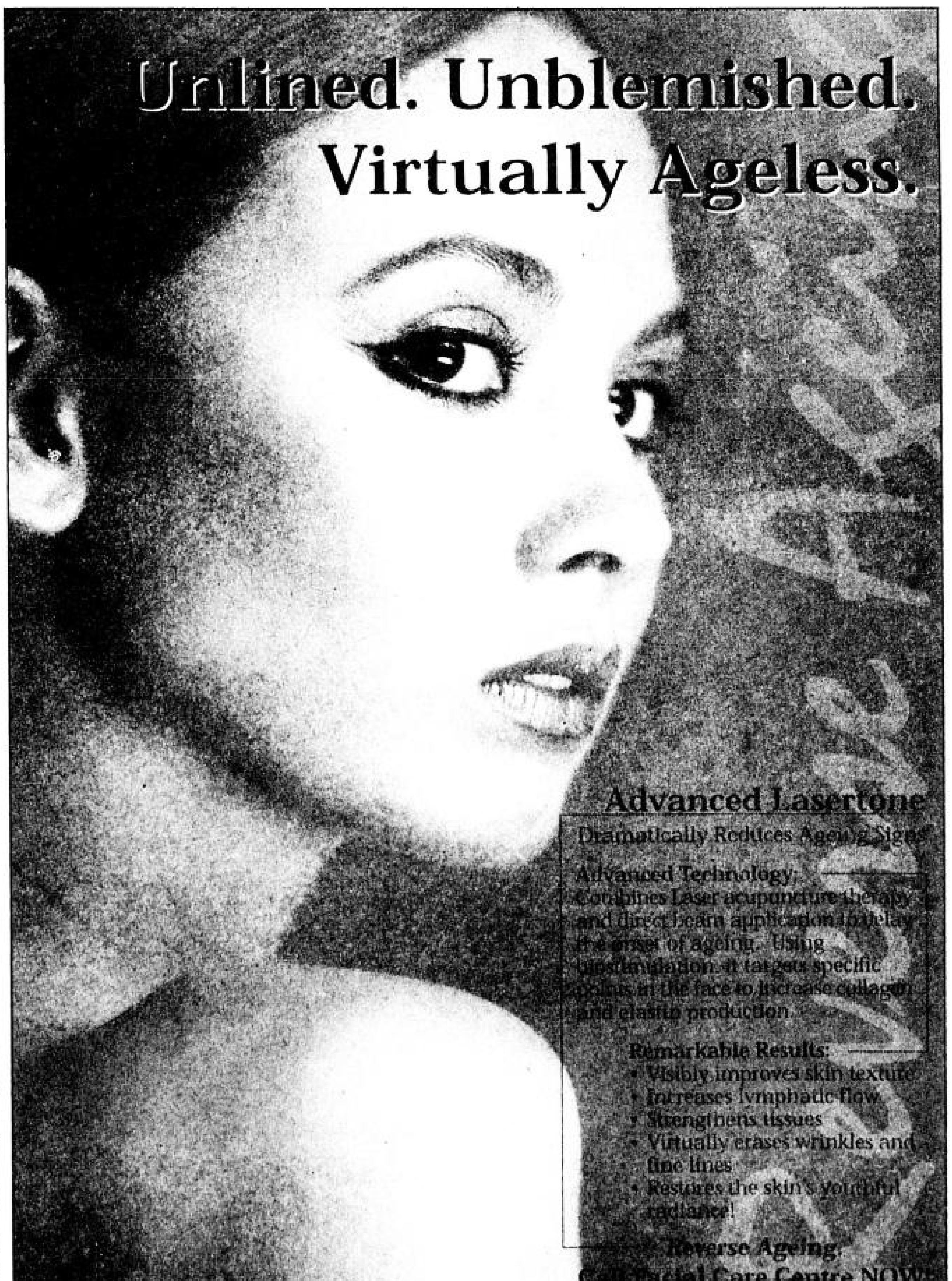

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Sheriffs can't serve writs on Erap pals

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S sheriffs have experienced difficulties in serving the writ of attachment issued by the court on Aug. 23 to the properties of three of Joseph Estrada's co-accused—Yolanda Ricaforte, Jaime Dichaves, Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Manny Torio of the sheriff's office said the caretakers of the three houses have refused to let in teams bearing the writs last weekend up to yesterday.

This prompted the Sheriff's Office to ask the Philippine National Police to send mobile teams and put the property under 24-hour watch to prevent the caretakers from carting away valuables from the houses in defiance of Sandiganbayan's freeze order.

"If they still won't let us in tonight, we have no choice but to force the gates open," Torio told the INQUIRER at around 5 p.m. yesterday.

MEDICAL CHECKUP IN US

Loi wants travel ban lifted

By Volt Contreras

OPPOSITION Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, the wife of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, who plans to go to the United States for a mammography, has asked the Sandiganbayan to lift the hold-departure order issued against her in connection with a dismissed graft case.

The senator said that a check with the immigration bureau showed that despite the court's dismissal of Criminal Case No. 26561 in a resolution on April 18, the hold order has remained in force. Ejercito yesterday filed an urgent motion asking the anti-graft court to lift the order so that she can leave on Sept. 8.

Ferdie Ramos, a member of the Ejercito's media staff, said she was going to the Stanford University Hospital in California for what he claimed was a long-overdue mammography, a procedure involving taking x-ray photographs of the breasts to discover possible cancers.

Asked what was ailing the senator, he said "there was already a problem detected back then (during the Estrada presidency)," but did not elaborate.

Ramos said the trip had nothing to do with ex-President Estrada's also long-overdue knee surgery. Estrada had also wanted to have the operation done at the Stanford University Hospital but the Sandiganbayan rejected his request to be freed to travel.

Ramos said the hold-departure order against Ejercito had prevented the senator from joining Senate committee hearings held in the United States, Japan, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia on the Absentee Voting Bill.

The hold order was an offshoot of the graft case filed against Estrada, Ejercito, their son Jinggoy and Estrada crony Charlie "Atong" Ang for the alleged diversion of P130 million in tobacco excise tax collections.

The case, one of the eight original charges filed against Estrada et al, was later withdrawn by state prosecutors so they could concentrate on the main charge of plunder which did not include Ejercito.

EJERCITO

Also yesterday, Estrada's co-accused son Jinggoy asked the Sandiganbayan to let him stay at the Makati Medical Center for three more days, or up to Sept. 8.

Jinggoy's personal physician Lorenzo Hocson said his patient was transferred to the MMC only last Sept. 1 causing him to lose a day in the five-day period granted by the court, which allowed Jinggoy's transfer from Aug. 31 to Sept 5.

Hocson said Jinggoy underwent colonoscopy only last Monday and needed the additional time for more medical procedures to be done.

At the Sandiganbayan plunder trial of Estrada, meanwhile, the jailed ex-president's spokesperson yesterday chided Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo for being a "crybaby."

Marcelo had complained over what he considered to be the inordinately lengthy cross-examination of the prosecution's main witness, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Spokesperson Raymund Fortun maintained that there was nothing improper or illegal about Singson's grilling, which started on July 31 and may take another couple of weeks.

"Very clearly, Attorney Marcelo's infantile protestations are meant only to spare his discredited witness from further punishment or ridicule," Fortun said.

Marcelo complained in open court on Monday that Singson's cross-examination by Estrada counsel *de oficio* Prospero Crescini was already "bordering on badgering."

He observed that Crescini's line of questioning had become repetitive.

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ASYLUM IN SOUTH KOREA

More defectors given transit

THE PHILIPPINES has agreed to permit the transit of 21 North Koreans seeking asylum in South Korea after defecting to Seoul's embassy in Beijing, officials said on Tuesday.

The asylum-seekers—the youngest a 5-month-old infant and the oldest a 65-year-old man—were to arrive in Manila late on tonight from Xiamen for a brief stop en route to South Korea, officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

"We have given them permission. As is the usual practice, they will take the first available flight to Seoul," Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said by telephone.

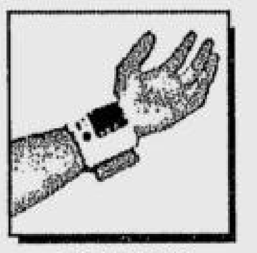
However, a South Korean official in Beijing denied the defectors were due to leave on Wednesday and said their fate was not yet decided. "No decision has been made," he said.

In the Chinese capital, witnesses said about 20 suspected North Korean asylum-seekers entered a German compound on Tuesday in what appeared to be a defection attempt.

Police cordoned off the compound, home to a German school and German diplomats' apartments, but did not enter it immediately.

In Manila, Baja said the request for transit privileges for the 21 North Korean asylum-seekers came from South Korean officials two days ago but he had no other details.

Another Philippine diplomat said the 21 defected to the South Korean Embassy in Beijing recently but he did not know exactly when. *Reuters*



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NEWSBRIEFS

Diwalwal rehab

THE CHAMBER of Mines has pledged assistance to Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez's Diwalwal rehabilitation efforts.

In a recent meeting at the Edsa Plaza Hotel, Chamber chairman Gerard Brimo and president Artemio Disnio offered the services of technical staff from various member companies such as Philex Mining, Lepanto Consolidated Mining and Benguet Corp. The team will undertake the design, construction and supervision of a tailings pond that would contain residuals from the mines .

The facility will operate at 450 tons per day, and have a 12-year mine life. A starter dam will first be constructed to hold tailings of 150 tons per day from small-scale mines.

The Chamber also promised technical support in terms of consultancy services on mining and mineral processing operations.

In Pat's defense

EMBATTLED Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas of the Department of Labor and Employment has found an unlikely ally on the issue of alleged paycuts affecting Filipino domestic helpers and semi-skilled workers in Saudi Arabia: the more than 600-strong Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI).

PASEI president Victor Fernandez said detractors of Secretary Sto. Tomas who branded her "anti-labor" might have been uninitiated on the intentions the labor chief. and "misinformed" on matters decided by Sto. Tomas and her Saudi counterparts in Riyadh last May.

Fernandez, who earlier clashed with the DOLE and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on other issues, said Sto. Tomas and the Saudi officials agreed that salaries of skilled workers should be based on market forces, skills experience and qualifications, instead of being legislated. It was also agreed that mandated floor wages be removed, so as not to affect the workers' current competitive edge and employment status.

Fernandez said the agreement was not "capricious" as critics said, but was in complete harmony with, and in pursuit of, the Full Disclosure Policy. "This is worker's empowerment," he said.

Tuna revolution

"LAYAG GenSan: Celebrating the Great Tuna Revolution" is the theme of this year's annual tuna festival marking General Santos City's 34th Charter Anniversary tomorrow. One of the highlights of the festival is the 4th National Tuna Congress, with the theme "Fish Without Barriers," set Sept. 4 to 6 at the Family Country Hotel and Convention Center. Congress participants will include members of the Confederation of Philippine Tuna Industry Inc., government, foreign and business sectors. President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to deliver the keynote address tomorrow.

Group 38 induction

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will induct the officers of the revitalized "Group of 38" party list sectoral and political organizations in Malacañang today at 1 p.m. The group, now known as ``G-38 Movement for Peace, Solidarity, and Development Inc." aims to advance community development and national solidarity through linkages with national and international agencies.

To be sworn in are: former Sen. Eddie Ilarde of Maharlika as chairman, Zenaida P. Reyes of Women Power Inc. as president, former Rep. Tim Dejon of AWATU as vice-chair, Mike Atil of OCW-Unifil as secretary general, former Rep. Gregorio C. del Prado of AFW as treasurer, Godofredo V. Arquiza as auditor, Abolcair Guro as business manager, and Datu Mao Andong as vice president for Mindanao. The trustees are: Ret. Capt. (PN) Oscar J. Taleon, Nelon Alindogan, Gerard R. Seno, Juan E. Dayang Jr., Cmdr. (Ret.) Wilfred B. Calma, Arturo Jimenez, Fmr. Gov. Pacifico C. Lejano, Fmr. Rep. Isidro Q. Aligada, Daniel Rayman, and retired Judge Roberto D. Dineros. Secretary Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on national concerns, and Ricardo Blancaflor are the advisers.

Online fellowship

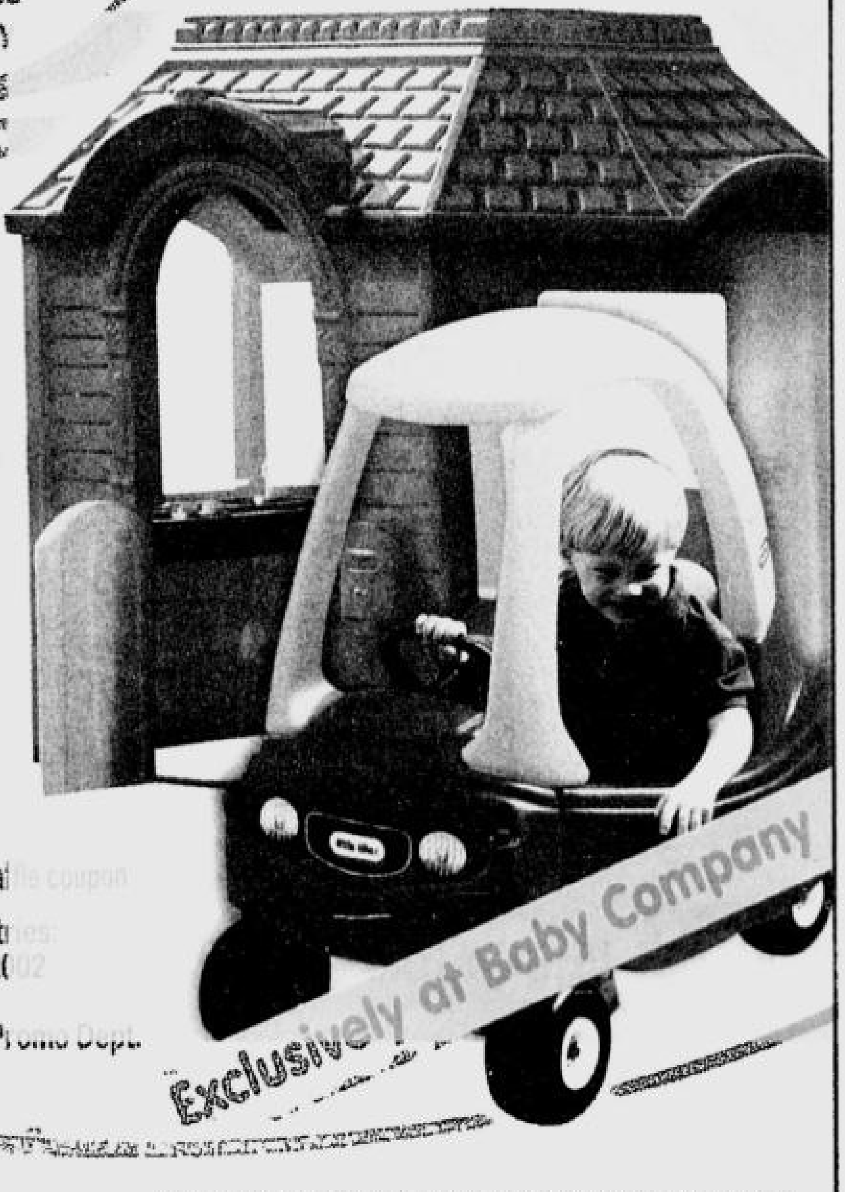
THE KONRAD Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (CFJ) is now accepting fellowship applicants for an online course, "Media Law: Press Freedom Issues."

To be conducted for 11 weeks starting Sept. 9, the course is open to working journalists in Asia and the Pacific region.

Every participant should be a full-time member of the editorial staff of an established news organization, and have at least three years of experience as a working journalist, as well as a good command of English. All sessions will be conducted in English.

Admission forms and requirements may be found at the Center for Journalism website, at http://cfj.ateneo.edu.

The course will be taught by Lawyer Pabilito Perez, and will cover legal and regulatory issues in journalism, analysis of restrictions on the journalist's newsgathering activities, the public's right to information, censorship of print and online press, and the latest developments on libel and defamation laws.



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Roco fires opening salvo

From page A1

He dared Mr. Arroyo to reveal the donors' names because these persons could secure favors from the administration, the very reason such donations are prohibited in the first place.

"DepEd distributed 395,000 posters of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo together with 350,000 of Roco's 'Bawat Graduate, Bayani't Marangal' posters. The funds spent for Roco's posters were sourced from the DepEd budget and approved by the COA (Commission on Audit) and thus legal. President Macapagal's posters were donated by private individuals, according to Atty. and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and thus illegal," Roco said.

Roco, who went back to become a full-time partner in his law office upon his resignation on Aug. 13, said that a sitting President is not allowed to accept private donations.

"That is a violation of law. That is a violation of the penal code. That is a violation of the anti-graft law. That is why Mike Arroyo should explain," Roco said.

"Mike Arroyo said that Roco should not compare his posters to the posters of the President because the posters of the President were all private donations," the resigned DepEd chief recalled.

He could be giving the evidence against the President herself, he noted.

"'He shot his foot when it was in his mouth," one of Roco's lawyers said.

Roco recalled that early in the term of former President Joseph Estrada, he received a barrage of criticisms for the renovation of the old Malacañang kitchen that reportedly cost half a million pesos.

When President Estrada justified the renovation, saying that the funds used came from the private sector, Roco, then a senator, found that Estrada had violated four to eight laws.

Under the Civil Code, he said that these private donations were considered "gifts" that a public official could not accept, except on special occasions such as birthdays and other festivities but even then gifts should be "modest."

Under the anti-graft law, public officials, including the President, are not supposed to receive gifts.

"That is called either direct bribery or extortion. *Pag magbigay ka ng donasyon sa akin, bina-bribe no ba ako o binabakalan kita* (Either you are bribing me or I'm extorting something from you)? Those are two crimes," he said.

Roco said that Mr. Arroyo was a lawyer and he should know what he was doing when he disclosed that the President's posters were all private donations.

Why the need for posters

Roco said that in a crisis meeting, around May 7 or 8 last year, after the pro-Estrada Edsa 3 had rocked the new administration, Ms Macapagal saw the need to distribute her posters so people would know there was a new president.

Roco noted that in the provinces, the posters of Estrada and that of then Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez were still posted in schools.

"So she ordered it (the distribution of our posters). They got 395,000 (posters of the President) and we printed 350,000 posters and we distributed them," he said.

There was a directive from the President after Edsa 3 to "publicize the new government, its leaders and their visions and plans."

"After the DepEd was publicly criticized for not removing the posters of former President Estrada and his education secretary in public schools nationwide, Roco issued DECS Memorandum No. 152, s. 2001 directing DECS offices and public schools to display the pictures of President Macapagal and Secretary Roco," Roco said in his answer submitted to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission on Sept. 2, and presented to the media yesterday.

In his 22-page answer, Roco debunks the complaint filed by the DepEd central office union against him, including his posters, his wife's use of a government driver, his allegedly "excessive" hiring of consultants, nondeposit of service fees, and his recommendation to give tax exemptions to the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital.

He claimed that his wife only used the DepEd driver when she represented him in functions which he could not attend.

"On occasions when the driver drove for Mrs. Roco, who represented the secretary when he could not attend a function, he used Roco's private car and the DepEd did not pay for gasoline or any other expense. As of February 2002, the practice was terminated," he said.

Prosecution complex

Roco admitted that he still felt hurt when the President referred to PAGC Chair Dario Rama the resolution against him sent by the Deped central office employees union.

He said he felt "demeaned" by Ms Macapagal's action. They had been friends and neighbors for a long time in La Vista subdivision in Quezon City.

He also accused Rama of having a "prosecution complex," accusing him of violating due process in his investigation of the case since the union did not submit, according to Roco, a verified complaint.

The union officers, however, said that they submitted a complaint that was verified by a PAGC officer.

"Sitting as judge, but acting as prosecutor, PAGC Chair Rama subpoenaed various DepEd documents to substantiate the union's complaint. Instead of making complainants prove their case, Rama is bent on proving their case for them. By belatedly subpoenaing documents, Rama deprived Roco of the chance to examine these documents before answering," Roco's statement said.

"Rama is calling for a preliminary conference which is not provided for in the PAGC rules. By his prior behavior, it gives Rama a 'photo opportunity' at the expense of due process," he said.

Asked if his party, Aksyon Demokratiko, would bolt the administration coalition People's Party Coalition, Roco said he would still think about it.

He said that his party delivered the needed votes for the PPC candidates to win in the Bicol region, considered Roco's bailiwick, but he said he had not been informed of the coalition meetings this week.

He also expressed disagreement with certain coalition issues such as the funding of political parties to help their candidates in their election campaign.

Also yesterday, some students from the Far Eastern University (FEU) went to the DepEd to rally against newly appointed Secretary Edilberto de Jesus who is the current FEU president.

They claimed De Jesus was "'anti-student," hitting him for extending the previous four-year accountancy course to a five-year program.

THE PHILIPPINE BOOKFAIR
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Megatrade Hall, 5th Level, Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

Schedule of Special Events

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rm. A
Forum
"Information Literacy Education"
UP Library Science Alumni Association

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
Paulines Publishing

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"GBS Family Day:
Your family-friendly bookstore brings you tips on parenting and child-rearing"

1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Rms. A & B
-"Pasiklaban sa Paaralan"
An Inter-School Competition
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Member's Meeting"
Book Exporters Association of the Phils. (BEAP)

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
St Pauls

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rms. A & B
"Genyo Product Launch & Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Lifestyle Makeovers: New Developments in Fitness, Health and Well-being"

12:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Genyo Product Launch & Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Christian Booksellers Association - Workshop"
OMF Literature, Inc.

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Ars Novo Guitar Quartet in a Mini Concert"
Book Wagon

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
OMF Literature, Inc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rms. A & B
"Film Showing of Classic Teacher-Oriented Movies"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Money Matters! Career, Business & Money Management tips for everyday use."

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
Seminar/Workshop for Preschool
"Shared Reading: An Approach To Literacy"
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"Forum: Cycle Time Management"
Speaker: Mr. Dindo M. Satumba
Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP).

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
Product Presentation
"Electronic Databases and Resource Centers for the Modern Library"
Thomson Learning

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"Launch of Jonathan Chua's The Critical Villa"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Philippine Bookfair
Fellowship Night
(by Invitation)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power! A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Function Rm. A
"The Magical Bridge to Reading and Writing:
A Seminar-Workshop for Primary Grade Teachers"
Seminar Fee: P700.00/participant
By Ms. Maricar Gustilo de Ocampo
Education Consultant

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rm. B
"Celebrity Storytelling by Ms. Christine Jacob-Sandejas"
Parents Magazine and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Philippine Robotics Society Induction of Officers"
Felta Multi-Media Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Chess Simul with Grand Master Eugene Torre"
Active Chess Center of Asia and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
UST Publishing House

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
Adarna House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddie Fun Day Sunday!
Featuring the Berenstain Bears Meet and Greet plus other mascots!"

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Rm. B
"Got 2 Believe (...In the Pinoy Writer)"
UP Press

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Last call . . .

From page A1

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has decided to stop its contraceptive assistance to the country by 2004. Next year, USAID will reduce its supply of contraceptive pills by 30 percent.

The USAID's pullout means a double whammy for the country's population program but a double blessing for the Catholic Church's consistently strong position against the use of contraceptives.

A final strategy for phasing out other methods (condoms, IUDs, pills and injectables) will be developed by the USAID this month, Mabalot said.

Francis Donovan, acting USAID country director, said the USAID had been providing assistance to the Philippines' family planning program for 30 years.

But in a letter to Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, Donovan said the "demand for reproductive health supplies is expected to increase dramatically in poor countries, and funding sources such as the USAID are projected to be unable to meet the demand."

In Pangasinan, Gov. Victor Agbayani said the impact of the USAID withdrawal would "be very great since we have been relying on the agency all these years."

DOH to the rescue?

But Agbayani said the Department of Health was expected to shoulder the cost difference when the contraceptive supply from USAID is stopped.

The provincial government will need about P4 million yearly to buy the contraceptive pills.

"We will review the population program in relation to the natural family planning (NFP) method and the cost of its promotion," Agbayani said.

He added that the province had prepared for the phasing out of modern contraceptives "by a timely policy shift to strengthen natural family planning two years ago" through a partnership with the Catholic Church in the province.

"We have no illusions about the difficulty of implementing the shift but neither are we retreating from the challenge of implementing a balanced population program," Agbayani said.

Luzviminda Muego, provincial population officer, said the USAID was giving the government $5 million (P250 million) annually as contraceptive assistance.

Population program setback

"So unless the national government will offset the USAID contraceptive assistance, achievements by the program will be set back. The population program may go haywire and the population growth will swell," Muego said.

In Pangasinan, 88 percent of the family planning services come from the government, with contraceptives like pills, condoms and injectables given free to couples.

"Will women practicing family planning be able to buy a month's supply of pills worth P80 to P150? It may be difficult for most women to sustain the supply for long.

If they are not able to buy even a month's supply, there's a big probability that they will get pregnant," Muego said.

In the 2002 study of the World Gazetteer, which has the world's extensive population database, the Philippines was identified as the world's 14th most populous country and has the third highest growth rate. The study included 243 countries.

'I am allergic . . .

From page A1

her that she had won the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize. She was with a team to set up a "a combination leprosy, TB and blindness control center."

"I am allergic to awards," the multi-awarded Pfau chuckles, "but this one is really special." Why? "Because of the reaction of the patients and the team. They were sooo excited. They learned about it earlier than I did and tracked me down for days."

In 1960 Pfau stopped by Pakistan on her way to her assignment in India. In a Karachi slum where her religious community had a clinic, Pfau came face to face with human degradation and decay. She decided to stay.

A leprosy patient, she realized, "has only one life to live out—one single life, a life just like mine."

Pfau reorganized the clinic into a professionally run center for legions of poor patients. In no time, her efforts were noticed. Through German funding, the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Center (MALC), which was named after her congregation's founder, moved to a hospital building that became the hub of leprosy control in Pakistan.

Pfau's work is not just about medicine and management. It is about stepping into the depths of human degradation and seeing things from the darkness there. Leprosy still carries with it an age-old stigma that, like the leprosy bacilli, needs to be controlled, if not eradicated. Treatment and rehabilitation involve the physical, social and spiritual.

Pakistan was a young nation when Pfau came. Post-war Germany and Pakistan (just separated from India) were very much alike then. We had been hungry too, with no roof over our heads. Germany was in ruins. The difference was that the Germans decided not to stay that way. Poverty was imposed on us, historically, and we were mad about it."

Empathy

Before coming to Asia, Pfau had never encountered leprosy. Was she repulsed? "As medical persons we are used to looking through the physical appearance, but this feeling of pity was too strong. Later, I found the English word empathy. I have to watch myself that I don't fall into the habit of slipping into the other. But it is good for the heart."

Has she gotten used to what's around her? "With my German background, I have never gotten used to it and I also decided not to get used to it. So we could make changes."

But she prefers to call the disease by its original name—leprosy—and not the euphemistic Hansen's Disease. "We have not introduced it in Pakistan because it would just be a whitewash and we blur the human tragedy."

In 1968 Pfau invited the Pakistan government to undertake a National Leprosy Control Program with MALC. She and her team set up leprosy controls across the country. Later, with the coming of the highly effective Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) in the 1980s, leprosy cases decreased. But erasing the stigma still remains a primary concern.

With her team, Pfau has traveled across swollen rivers and windswept deserts, mountains and wildernesses, on horseback and camelback. They've tracked down patients who have been cast away or hidden in order to bring them out for rehabilitation and in the process educate communities in dealing with the disease.

Pfau recalls sleeping with camels. "I learned something about them," she laughs. "They regurgitate the whole night."

Reminiscences

With a German co-writer, Pfau's has published her first-hand accounts. The first of five books, "To Light a Candle: Reminiscences and Reflections of Dr. Ruth Pfau," has been translated into English and Urdu. It is full of riveting, heart-rending tales of people, misery and hope. It includes selfless individuals for whom Pfau has profuse praise.

It is autobiographical and describes her happy childhood in Leipzig, her experience of the war, medical school, falling in love and giving up marriage for a life of chastity, poverty and obedience.

His name was G. "I still love him, no question about it," she muses. "Because of that, I know what love is and the deeper meaning of chastity. In Pakistan women have little chance to meet men and when infatuation hits them, that's it."

Pfau joined the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, a congregation founded in the underground during the French Revolution. "I wanted to be a Jesuit and later I learned there was this group for women that was like them. I needed a good amount of intellectual freedom."

What pushed her to take the plunge? "I cannot do things halfway. I was made that way genetically." It was all or nothing. She waxes philosophical. "The position to recognize something outside myself which I cannot understand with my finite brain, and then to submit in freedom whether I believe it is there or not. . . . this presupposes that love is already there, you are inside it. I asked, what is the meaning of all this? You cannot decide with your intellectual capabilities. It is love. So I have to respond with love. I looked around so I could make an adequate response."

She remembers her spiritual director's advice: "When you make your novitiate, take your vow as final. Say to the Lord, if you want me out you will have to shoot me out with a cannon."

She adds, "When one is actually 'in' one must accept all that is dreary and commonplace, all that isn't part of one's grandiose visions. Membership in a religious order is a union, and like marriage, it is for life."

Resilience

Her source of strength? "My resilience in frustration comes from my congregation and my Christian faith. I have this consoling conviction that whether or not we will be successful in what we do is not the point and that it will always make sense. I had this sense of adventure that I thought would never end. I belong to a generation that didn't have a home, so to speak, because of the war."

She is concerned about "the team," the 480 health workers who are constantly exposed to disease and at risk of burnout. She would like to have a psychological program for them.

She herself relishes the rare mystical moments when she experiences peace, quiet and profound joy. Nature has provided some of that. "Some places are copiously breathtaking, the desert, the Himalayan range. Afghanistan is beautiful."

Joy mostly comes in special encounters. "We heard of a patient in Baluchistan. He must have been so disappointed that we came too late. The next morning he was so changed, so happy. We learned that the family was not allowed to fetch water from the neighbors' wells. And when the villagers learned that we slept there, they welcomed the family at last. The people came to the house of the patient."

Pfau and her team have also been in "rescue operations" to save those who have been cast away like wounded animals and made to live in deplorable conditions.

Unlike some countries, Pakistan did not resort to "leper colonies" where patients were exiled. "That was our luck, that nobody came to do that. There was money offered for a leprosarium in the desert and we said, keep your money.

"We never had to interrupt the lives of those under treatment. Leprosy is not a serious disease. There still are false beliefs, that it's God's punishment. The stigma was high, but we have made headway. We want to stress that it is caused by bacteria and could be cured."

One time Pfau thought the bacillus had infected her. She resorted to self-medication but without success. It later turned out to be something else which spontaneously went into remission. Leprosy would have been easier, she says.

Federal adviser

When she turned 65, Pfau packed up to move from the hospital to her religious community because "that was how it was in Germany." She was prevailed upon and told "this is Asia." Back as member of the core team, she now serves as federal adviser to the government on leprosy as well as in the human rights commission.

Pakistan, which has a population of 130 million, has had 49,856 patients registered over the years. They are now down to 27,000. Those who recover are stricken off the list. In 1996, the World Health Organization declared the disease under control in Pakistan.

Afghans

The Afghan refugees are very much among Pfau's concerns. "We started in Afghanistan in 1984 when the Russians were there. There were warlords but they allowed us. Under Taliban rule, three of our people were killed. Two control centers were burned. Now, there is great hope."

About 90 percent of her time, she says, she has spent with Muslims. She would be away for long stretches, without Mass or going to church. She has general permission from her superiors.

Pfau speaks Urdu and uses the Pakistani dress for women. To cross the border to Afghanistan she sometimes had to wear the *burkha* that covered her from head to foot, with only her eyes showing. "My German behavior gave me away," she laughs.

She reflects on her German homeland and says, "There is much that Asia could give to the West."

Her books were written, she says, because of what theologian Kark Rahner said about the difficulty of transmitting the faith to the next generation in a language that could be understood.

For the Ramon Magsaysay Award ceremonies, Pfau came with an assistant, Dr. Mutaher Zia who, some years ago, chose to train in Public Health at the University of the Philippines, instead of in London.

New payment scheme to plug tax loopholes

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE GOVERNMENT is set to implement a new tax payment scheme aimed at preventing tax diversion scams like the one uncovered at the Land Bank of the Philippine recently.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday that the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs would soon implement the new scheme in which tax payments would be tracked every step of the way to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The new scheme was worked out after the multimillion-peso tax diversion scams at the Landbank and the United Coconut Planters Bank.

"The days of syndicates diverting huge amounts of tax payments are finally over," Ms Macapagal said after yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

In the Landbank case, over P400 million in tax payments were allegedly diverted to fictitious accounts set up by bank insiders who were in cahoots with BIR officials.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho, who headed the interagency task force that reviewed the present tax payment scheme, briefed the Cabinet on the new system.

Cash payment

Over the counter cash payments would be limited to P10,000. Cash payments exceeding P10,000 shall now pass through the banks.

The BTr would open deposit accounts with authorized agent banks for all BIR and BOC collections.

The BIR and the BOC would have the same account numbers, 888-888-888 and 999-999-999, respectively, in all the banks.

The uniform account numbers would make it easier for the taxpayers to verify their payments with the BIR or the BOC.

Check deposits will be encoded using a transaction code prescribed by the Philippine Clearing House Corp. The code will provide a paper trail for the monitoring and reconciliation of tax payments among the BTr, BIR, BOC, the banks and the PCHC.

The debit memo as an alternative mode of payment, as proposed by the Bankers Association of the Philippines, would also be allowed to reduce the risk of check diversion.

Ms Macapagal said the Monetary Board will approve the opening of the BTr's deposit accounts in the next two days.

The government is hard put to boost revenue collections since the budget deficit ballooned to P133 billion in July.

The President said the government is also looking at other tax payment schemes.

"We are looking at the possibility of accepting tax payments via automated teller machines," she said.

The task force consisted of members from the Department of Finance, BTr, BIR and BOC, in consultation with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Clearing Officers Club Inc., PCHC and the BAP.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho announce the new tax payment scheme that they say will plug the loopholes in tax collection. EDWIN BACASMAS

Wake-up call, not an indictment

BUSINESS tycoon Lucio Tan's recent comments on the state of the economy and the future of the country were meant to be a wake-up call for Filipinos and their officials.

Lt. Gen. Salvador M. Mison (ret.), president of Tan's Basic Holdings Corp., said the taipan's statements "had been taken out of context and were simply the result of a strong urge to sound a wake-up call to our countrymen."

Tan caused quite a stir recently when he said the Philippine economy would remain stagnant for the next 100 years, the exchange rate would zoom to P120 to $1 and the country would not have a true national leader for the next three generations.

Mison said what Tan meant was that "if politics in this country did not improve," then we might see the realization of the things he predicted.

"Since Tan's comments were based on certain assumptions, they should not be seen as an indictment of the country, much less of the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo," Mison said.

He said, "Whenever Tan goes abroad and he sees how fast other nations are developing compared to the Philippines, he feels very sad and frustrated. It was obvious he made the statements to give us a sense of urgency to get our act together before it is too late."

Mison added: "Tan remains hopeful about the country's future, so much so that he continues to invest and provide employment to thousands of Filipinos. He is perhaps one of the few businessmen who continues to expand his companies to contribute to the national wealth."

2 Malaysians charged in Rizal Day bombings

By Michael Lim Ubac

POLICE have charged two Malaysians, believed linked to the al-Qaida international terrorist network, and an unnamed Filipino businessman, for involvement in the December 2000 bombing that killed 22 people and injured more than a hundred individuals in Metro Manila.

Malaysians Faiz Bin Abu Bakar Bafana and Riduan Isamudin alias "Hambali," alleged members of the extremist Jemaah Islamiyah organization, and the unnamed Cebu-based businessman, were charged with illegal possession of explosives by the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group.

The three are also being investigated for allegedly financing the Rizal Day bombings, state prosecutors said.

Prosecutor Roberto Lao refused to identify the Filipino suspect, an alleged explosives supplier, pending the issuance of a subpoena against him.

Bafana was among 13 members of the Jemaah Islamiyah who were arrested in Singapore in December for allegedly planning bombing attacks on Israeli and United States targets while Hambali is still at large.

The two Malaysians were implicated by Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi who is now serving a 12-year jail sentence here, also for illegal possession of explosives.

Al-Ghozi is an alleged explosives expert of the Jemaah Islamiya which Southeast Asian governments say has links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, blamed for the Sept 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Al-Ghozi, who was arrested in Manila in January and pleaded guilty to the charges against him, claimed that the two Malaysians had carried out the LRT bombings in December 2000.

Recto hits, agri chief defends rice imports

By Rocky Nazareno and Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE PHILIPPINES has so far imported 1.14 million metric tons of rice this year, way above the 390,000 MT it had originally planned to buy from foreign sources.

This was revealed by Sen. Ralph Recto, who said the volume of rice imports breached the one-million MT mark after agriculture officials recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo the purchase of an additional 250,000 MT of rice from Thailand, Vietnam and Burma.

The shipment will reportedly be added to buffer stocks in anticipation of the coming dry spell that could lead to a shortfall in domestic rice production.

The additional rice stocks will arrive in the country late this year.

"The fact that we have to bring in another 250,000 MT is proof that something is wrong in the rice sector," Recto said. This after the original 390,000 MT import figure had mushroomed to 890,000 MT.

But Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said yesterday the additional 250,000 MT of new rice imports would be held in reserve and not be readily released to the market so as not to affect local palay prices.

Montemayor said the 250,000 MT on top of the 890,000 MT the government had already ordered was in anticipation of the El Niño phenomenon that is expected to hit the country in the last quarter.

"The rainy season is not yet over. We can never tell if a strong typhoon is about to come. Aside from this, the El Niño is coming," Montemayor said.

Recto recalled that agriculture officials "boasted in January that the country would import only 390,000 MT of rice this year, which was the 'good news' President Macapagal herself relayed to reporters in March."

"But the opposite is happening because the 1.14 million MT we will be importing this year is almost 50 percent higher than last year's 780,000 MT importation," Recto said.

Solon cries 'blackmail'

REP. Juan Miguel Zubiri yesterday accused officials of the National Power Corp. of blackmail for saying that the cost of electricity could go up by P1 per kilowatt-hour (kwh) if coal-fired plants are shut down because of pollution.

The Bukidnon congressman said he could not understand why power rates could go up if coal plants are padlocked since the country has an excess supply of electricity.

"Power supply won't be affected. There would still be an excess, since there are only five coal plants, all of them polluting the environment," he said.

"This is pure and simple blackmail. They want us to withdraw our opposition to the continued operation of their polluting facilities and to keep our eyes shut to the danger these plants pose to the health of our people," he added.

He pointed out that Napocor officials are shielding independent power producers (IPP) from the people's wrath spawned by their onerous supply contracts and their plants' poisonous emissions.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 4, 2002
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 Cor 3:1-9**
Gospel: **Lk 4:38-44**

Leaving the synagogue, Jesus went to the house of Simon. His mother-in-law was suffering from high fever and they asked him to do something for her. Bending over her, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and waited on them.

At sunset, people suffering from many kinds of sickness were brought to Jesus. Laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Demons were driven out, howling as they departed from their victims, "You are the Son of God!" He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, for they knew he was the Messiah.

Jesus left at daybreak and looked for a solitary place. People went out in search of him and, finding him, they tried to dissuade him from leaving. But he said, "I have to go to other towns to announce the good news of the kingdom of God. That is what I was sent to do." So Jesus continued to preach in the synagogues of the Jewish country.

Commentary

God's intent for humans is life in its fullness. Thus, where Jesus finds life threatened or curtailed, he gives wholeness to people. Luke shows Jesus to be a healer of body and of mind. Here he also shows that such healing leads to a confession of Jesus as God's Son, which is again a post-resurrection formulation. Are we, who nowadays repeat such confession, equally intent in seeking wholeness of life for people and nature around us?

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   - Sunrise Holiday Mansion (Tagaytay)
   - Hotel del Rio (Iloilo)
   - Marco Hotel (Cagayan de Oro)
   - Marriott Hotel (Cebu)
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Musical chairs

EDITORIAL

UNLESS she has a sudden change of heart, President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to announce possibly today the appointment of Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor as the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. A Malacañang source told the INQUIRER that Defensor is Ms Macapagal's choice to replace Gen. Roy Cimatu who retires on Sept. 10.

The chief of the Philippine Air Force was picked as the new AFP chief of staff because he had demonstrated his professionalism "throughout his career," the source said. Besides, the President "respects seniority," he further explained. "The President believes that Defensor is highly qualified and (his appointment) will be for the best of the Armed Forces and the country as well."

Defensor's seniority is, of course, not debatable. What may be open to question, however, is whether his other qualifications are superior to those of the five other top military officers vying for the post.

Defensor, for instance, has not adequately explained the role he played in the making of the critical decision to throw the support of the AFP behind the second people power uprising at Edsa in January 2001. In a meeting among the top military brass on Jan. 19, Defensor seemed to have given the impression that he was pushing for a snap election at one point and proposing the establishment of a junta at another. He has since denied ever bringing up the idea of setting up a junta but has not been as categorical in belying the report that he had pushed for a snap election.

This seems to indicate that at the very least, he was no fan of Ms Macapagal and no firm believer in the constitutional process of succession. Which makes it rather puzzling that the President would now reward him with a nomination to the top military post. But then if Ms Macapagal can sleep with Blas Ople who slept through the historic impeachment trial of her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, it must be easy to get into bed with someone who couldn't believe she was the deposed president's legitimate successor.

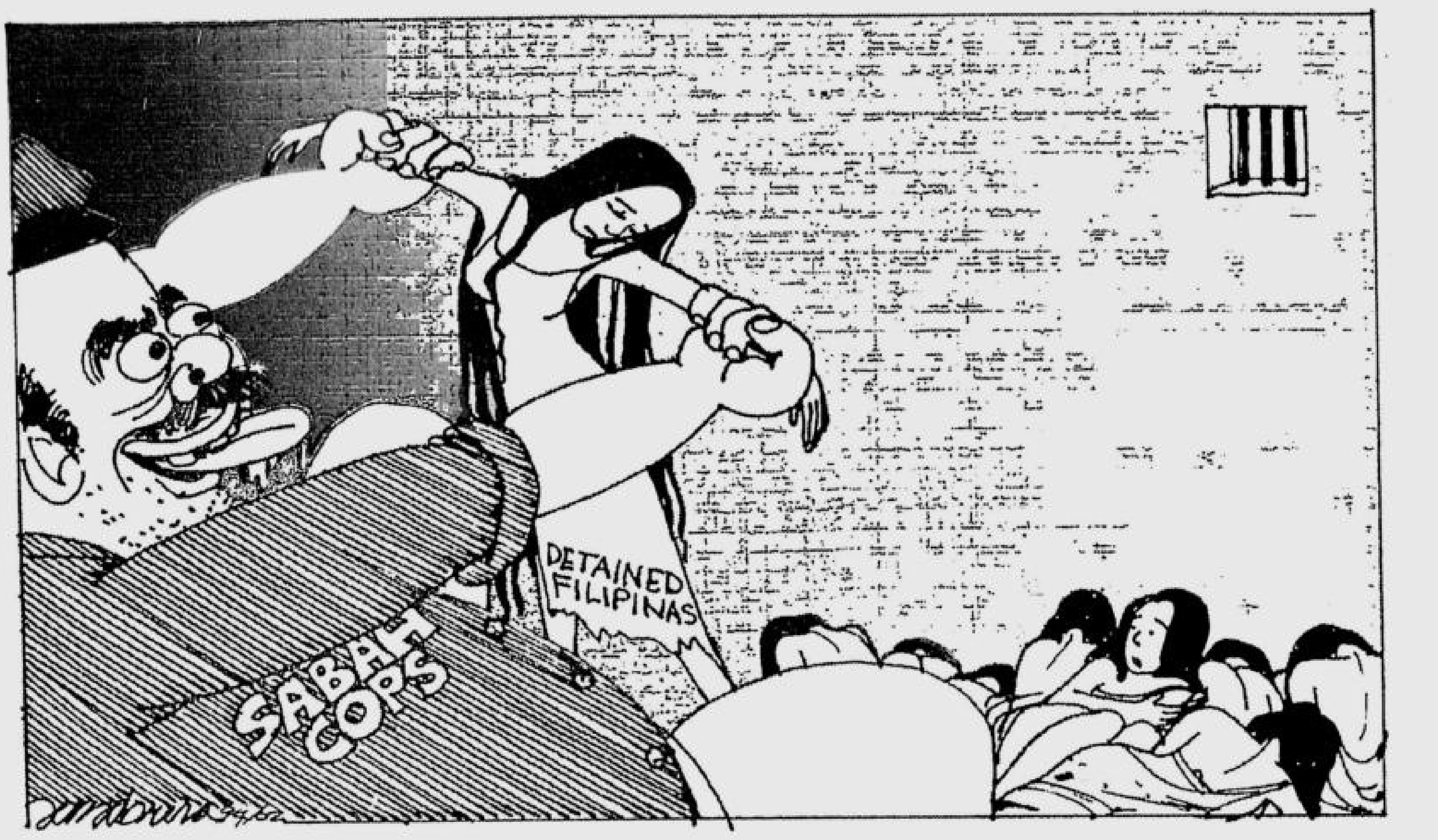
Ople, however, presented her with a nice political present, which was control of the Senate by the administration coalition. So what political prize will Defensor bring to her? Could it be the support of his sister, former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, one of Estrada's staunchest defenders in the Senate trial?

That is what everybody outside Malacañang suspects. "It's plain and simple political accommodation at the expense of the institution," one military officer grumbled. Opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a former colonel and mutineer, urged the President to insulate the selection process from "political accommodation and patronage."

Can the administration blame them for smelling dirty politics? Malacañang should drop the line about Defensor's appointment being "best" for the AFP and for the country. That doesn't wash. Even the very best general in the annals of military history, whoever he may be, cannot do much with so little time like what Defensor will have as AFP chief of staff. For if the rule on military retirement is strictly applied, Defensor will have exactly 48 hours to serve as chief of staff. If he assumes the post on Sept. 10, he will have to give it up on Sept. 12 when he reaches the compulsory retirement age of 56.

Apparently Defensor's tour of duty will be extended. But for how long? One month? Two months? Ms Macapagal cannot extend his tour of duty much longer than that without courting dissension in the ranks. What can Defensor accomplish in the short time that he will be chief of staff other than secure a bigger pension for himself? Conversely, what great calamity would befall this nation if he doesn't get the top post during the last two days of his military service?

Honasan is right: Stability and continuity in the military command should be given the highest priority. That is, of course, assuming that the administration wants the chief of staff to make plans, set directions and carry out programs that will improve the AFP's capability to meet various threats to national security. But stability in the military organization and continuity of plans and programs can never be achieved when the chief of staff occupies his post for just a little bit longer than the players in a game of musical chairs.



RP a dummy of US group in taking over Piatco

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THERE it is again, the "policy of fear" in foreign relations at work once more. President Macapagal-Arroyo refuses even to mention reopening the Philippine claim to Sabah, which Malaysia annexed, and Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople arrogantly said that he would "teach diplomacy" to Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee who questioned this "policy of fear," as though he, Ople, has a monopoly on diplomatic savvy (see As I See It, 9/2/02). Present Filipino leaders are afraid to ruffle the feathers of Malaysia, which may be more progressive than the Philippines but is nevertheless also a Third World country. We are afraid of everybody. We were even afraid of a bunch of bandits like the Abu Sayyaf until Uncle Sam came to the rescue. We are even afraid of Joma Sison, the newest steak commando in the Netherlands.

This "tail between the legs diplomacy" of Ople et al. has already seeped down to the rank and file. Dinky Soliman's social workers, to whom Filipino women deportees complained that they were raped by Malaysian policemen, replied that they "could not do anything until there was evidence." These are the victims themselves crying rape! A physical exam will readily reveal if they had indeed been raped. What more evidence do they need, a videotape of the rape itself?

And the investigating team sent to Malaysia to look into the conditions of the Filipino deportees have been instructed by Malacañang to tiptoe softly and be very apologetic to the Malaysian officials.

It was not so long ago that Filipinos under Lapulapu fought the foreign invaders under Magellan, and barefoot revolutionaries under Bonifacio and Aguinaldo took on at the same time both Spain and the United States, the two strongest colonial powers at the time, and Filipino soldiers took on the Japanese empire during World War II. How times have changed in so short a time. Or is it just a change—for the worse—of the quality of Filipino leadership?

This new "quaking-in-the-shoes policy" regarding our relations with Malaysia is full of irony. It was Ms Macapagal's own father, President Diosdado Macapagal, who revived the Sabah claim, and it was President Marcos, the man we love to hate, who put it in the freezer. Now Cong Dadong's daughter wants to continue that Marcos policy.

Diplomats are the most wishy-washy and cowardly people on earth. They are the only people who purposely make their statements ambiguous and hazy so that they can be interpreted in many ways, and so that the diplomats can retreat and say, "No, that's not what we meant" when their statements are challenged.

Ople used to be a journalist. The first lessons drummed into the heads of journalists are to "be accurate, be direct, be concise and be complete." How did he ever get sucked into diplomacy?

So let's get straight to the point. Nobody is suggesting that we declare war on Malaysia—or any other nation, just to show how brave we are. What is being suggested is that we keep our dignity and self-respect in dealing with the rest of the world. We don't have to be the doormat of the world.

* * *

It was also not so long ago that we were denouncing the Piatco contract, demanding its cancellation. If I remember right, some sectors even demanded that the government take over. Transportation Secretary Bebot Alvarez lost his job because of that widespread opposition to the contract.

Now that the government plans to do just that, take over, there is a complete about-face by the critics. Now they are denouncing the government for planning to cancel the contract and take over.

Why not? Malacañang said the contract—which so many people had excoriated—is "flawed." One glance at it will show that it really is. The majority stockholder, the Cheng group which owns 60 percent of Piatco, invested only $14.8 million in Terminal 3. Its German partner, the minority stockholder, invested more than $400 million. How did Cheng do that? He must be a genius in high finance and the President should appoint him her finance secretary.

But having said that, it does not follow that the plan of the other Gloria in Malacañang to take over Terminal 3 is beyond reproach. Because the government is not really taking over Terminal 3. Rather it is another private company, an American group, which will "steal" it from the original owners who conceived, funded and built the terminal. (The Philippine government is only a dummy.) The original Piatco is like the Little Red Hen who planted, harvested, threshed and cooked the rice and after it was cooked, the other barnyard animals wanted to eat it.

In short, the motive of the planned takeover is not all that noble. The motive is greed, profit and opportunism. And you won't be able to guess who is the agent or "commissioner," of this plot. According to reports, he is an unassuming broadcaster, a former congressman-Cabinet member-governor-turned fixer.

The Cheng group should not be allowed to get away with murder. But neither should this new, greedier group. To make it fair, the government should do the taking over. This is to make sure that it is the interest of the public—and not that of opportunistic private groups—that is protected.

Folk

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I FIRST caught a glimpse of the true meaning of "folk" in the late 1970s in Real, Quezon. It was very early morning, the earth was still dark, but the men, women and children in the fishing village were already awake and hearing Mass at a small chapel. This was before the place got electricity. The chapel was illuminated by fluorescent lamp and candlelight. There was a slight drizzle outside and a cold breeze wafted inside the chapel in slow swirling bursts, sending the candle flames shivering.

Unlike the flock who chorused their lines by rote while yawning in Masses in cathedrals and big churches (giving not very edifying meanings to the word "flock"), the people who gathered here said their responses, which were in Tagalog and resonated with metaphors of fishing, with much conviction. The priest himself was not a power on high descended on mortals with a message from heaven, he spoke to the congregation as one of them. As one who shared their life, who knew of the joys and perils of riding off into the sea.

There was something starkly simple and profound about it at the same time. Here was "folk Christianity" at its best, faith that still held a deep meaning, or relevance, to those who embraced it. Or folk religion generally: It might have been Buddhist or Shinto, and it wouldn't have mattered.

I remembered this when I first heard the strains of "Huwag Mangamba," Noel Cabangon's recently launched album of songs of faith. Or as the album itself puts it, "Mga Awit ng Pagtatagpo," or "Contemporary Filipino Retreat Music." The songs were composed by several Jesuit priests, which makes it all the more surprising. One would have thought they'd go for more elaborate melodies and lush arrangements and orchestrations. Instead, they went for the spare and simple, and the results are, well, providential. The choice of Noel to sing the song was (divinely) inspired. If anyone could make these songs leap like candle flame or haunt like the night wind just with solo voice and acoustic guitar, it is he.

I for one am glad Noel ventured into this, it is the true sign of the artist, which is the willingness to plunge into uncharted waters. Or more than uncharted, waters that previous scattered expeditions have found full of jagged reef. Religion may have a huge following in this country, but religious music does not. The reason for that, as this album amply shows, is not the genre itself but the way it has been passed off. I can personally vouch for that. I used to have a neighbor who played charismatic music every early morning, and quite loudly at that, which I assumed drew from an intention to fill me and the other neighbors with Christian joy. If so, it did not produce the desired effect. The songs had a mindless jingle-like quality where a chorus chanted "Praise the Lord" constantly. I had the sensation of getting the aural equivalent of "King of Kings" or the other epics they show on Lent. Piety was not the thing that engulfed me after being awakened from fitful sleep to that joyfulness. Unchristian thoughts did.

Have no fear, "Huwag Mangamba" is not like that at all. You don't have to be religious to like it, in the same way that you don't have to be religious to like Bach's church music. You only have to like music, which is as close to God as you can ever get on earth. This one requires little effort, catching as it does shafts of the sublime, with its spare artistry and total devotion, the same kind I saw one windswept dawn in a chapel in a fishing village in Quezon. You have Noel to thank for that.

Elsewhere, "folk" too is the word that sprang to my mind while listening to Gary Granada's newest album, "Saranggola Sa Ulan." Where "Huwag Mangamba" is path-breaking in that it redefines the meaning of folk, showing us that it resides as well, if not most of all, in this country's faith, "Saranggola" is path-breaking in that it gives us the true face of folk, one that has always been as fuzzy as figures in the rain.

"Folk" has somehow always meant American folk music, or its local variant, such as "Anak." Which presumably has to be distinguished from *baduy* or archaic pop music, as the songs of Ric Manrique and Ruben Tagalog, from local "karaoke" music, such as "Matud Nila," and indeed from "Philippine folk songs," such as those danced by the Bayanihan or what we learned from grade school. Granada shows those divisions are completely artificial. Through the magic of wit, charm, playfulness, plaintiveness, lyricism and plain awesome talent, he breaks down the barriers and fuses these elements together.

His best song is easily, "Saranggola sa Ulan," which is the source of the album's title. It is a bittersweet elegy-celebration that I am certain will go on to become one of this country's most enduring classics—I told Gary as much the first time I heard him sing it. It will also probably go on to bequeath to us a new phrase for daring to dream the impossible. The persona in the song believes nothing is impossible, not love between unlikely lovers, not bridging the social divide, not flying a kite in the rain. It's an inspired phrase, *"saranggola sa ulan."*

From there, Gary goes on to sing "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," the Visayan song, "Usahay," the Ilocano song "O Naraniag A Bulan," and "Mga Kanta ni Gorio," the last being Filipino folk songs given new more biting lyrics (by Jess Santiago). And of course Gary's other compositions, which partake in different measure of his gentle wit and wisdom. This is his best album yet, which is saying a lot given that he has made more than a couple of dozen of them in a prolific career. And he ain't through yet, he's just peaking.

Check out these two albums, folks. This is folk at its very best.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Returning the streets to the public

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CAMPAIGN of the chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Bayani Fernando, to return the streets to the public has earned him the antagonism of the poor, those with bleeding hearts for the poor, and the resistance of other Metro Manila mayors. Among the latter is Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila.

In particular, his action to clear the streets of ambulant vendors has been criticized as anti-poor and described as a "Hitlerite" act. His campaign has raised issues not only of poverty but more so of violation of human rights. Atienza has decided that Fernando cannot carry out his campaign in the former's jurisdiction. Indeed, Fernando has kicked up a storm for a campaign no other MMDA chair had done in the past. He has ruffled many feathers.

The previous emphasis of former MMDA chiefs was focused on, first, easing traffic congestion; and, second, garbage collection. Fernando proceeds from experience and a model that has worked—his hometown of Marikina which is a shining example of a suburban community which has risen out of squalor, which has cleaned its waterways, which has made its traffic orderly and which has made Marikina a pleasant and clean place to live in. He initiated this change when he was mayor of Marikina.

Obviously, Fernando is finding out to his grief that his model cannot be transplanted, without clashing with inertia, to the larger setting of Metro Manila with more than 10 million people. And Marikina is inhabited by only a fraction of this mass.

Indeed, if you look around, Marikina is an exception and contrast to the squalor and decay festering all other Metro Manila satellite cities. Fernando showed other mayors what a mayor can do to lift a community from the urban blight, making them look like laggards in comparison.

It is in this context that his campaign in Metro Manila to return the streets to the people should be seen in order to understand the resistance that has impeded his drive. The campaign against ambulant vendors appropriating the streets is a basic approach. It does not involve complicated land title disputes such as those growing out of land reform. The streets are public property full point. No one has a right to appropriate them for private use—either by the poor or the rich. It is the basic level where law enforcement and notions of general public good begin.

This basic concept has been forgotten for so long that our streets are the most hostile and unfriendly to pedestrians anywhere in the world. In the construction of our streets, provisions for sidewalks have been erased, and in places where there are still sidewalks, they are occupied by parked cars, car repair shops, *tiendas* protruding from them and, around market places, by ambulant vendors.

The consequence is that people have no place to walk anymore. They are driven to the streets where they are sideswiped or run down by vehicles, whose drivers are ferociously equally hostile to pedestrians.

And so, when Fernando mounted his campaign, vendors staged people power to resist it, and the habitual comforters of the poor, who have not contributed anything to alleviating poverty, except pious words, have taken umbrage at the campaign. They argue that illegal vending is a function of poverty, since the vendors are only making a living in the teeming underground economy.

The question, therefore, is when can a metropolitan authority begin clearing the streets of obstruction and returning them to the general public? Shall we wait until the poor are less poor before such a campaign can be undertaken? A similar argument flows from the problem of crimes—especially petty crimes. It is argued that crimes are a function of poverty and unequal opportunities for jobs and acquisition of wealth. And so, the same question arises: shall we stop law enforcement until poverty is eradicated?

The same question was raised in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. It was glibly argued that the terrorist attacks traced to al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden were an expression of Western imperialism, of the exploitation of the poor countries and of resentment of the Arab world against America's pro-Israel policies, and of the backwardness of many of the Islamic states.

The implication of these arguments is that the United States and the West deserved the attack, they asked for it, and they invited the resentment of the poor countries, especially in the Islamic world.

So what do you do when you are attacked? Would you expect the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks to sit back and pause and ask themselves —what have we done to deserve this? Would you go to the library, the archives and the museums to do some research to ponder upon the grievances of the attackers?

This response goes against the grain of human nature. When you are attacked, the first impulse is to defend your life and hit back. This is the honest response. After you have fought back and survived, then you can have the luxury of going to the archives to look for the deeper roots of the violence inflicted on you.

What in essence I am saying is that one cannot use the reason of poverty to inhibit authorities from doing their job of cleaning up their communities and making life more easy and pleasant for their inhabitants at the most basic level—the streets. Talking about Hitler is overreading history. Hitler herded Jews and sent them to the gas chambers in his "final solution." Fernando is just driving out illegal occupants of the streets.

Also a population story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S a human rights story, a foreign relations story, even a national defense story. But the deportation of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of "illegal" Filipino migrants from Malaysia is also a population story.

Local government executives in Basilan, Zamboanga, Sulu and Tawi-tawi have raised alarms over the possible impact on their localities of the arrival of thousands of migrants who will almost certainly tax their limited resources, already strained as they cope with their present populations.

Poor, jobless, sick and traumatized after months of detention in squalid camps and days of a difficult journey on crowded navy ships, the new arrivals will need looking after. The national government, primarily through the Department of Social Welfare and Development, is responding to their immediate needs, flying in food, water, medicines, blankets and other basic needs of the deportees. The private sector has also stepped in, organizing drives to supplement the government's limited supplies.

But after this crisis has passed, when the story shall have fallen from the front page, upper fold, to the lower fold, to the inside pages and then to obscurity, the migrants will still be where they are. And their needs will shift from immediate relief to more permanent requirements—housing, basic health, education and employment. Who will meet these needs? The national government may try to provide interim funds, but in the long run, the responsibility will be, has to be, borne by the local governments where these deportees are settled.

Honestly, I don't see how the local governments, already among the poorest in the country, can cope with the needs of what would be the equivalent of an entire new municipality dumped on their laps. And if the long-term needs of the migrants are not met or fall far short, then these local governments risk anarchy in the form of delinquency, crime, maybe even drugs.

* * *

THIS is what "population management" means, trying to find the balance between resources and population growth, studying the impact of density and migration on social conditions and national and local policies.

Since Malaysia issued its deadline last February on the grant of amnesty to illegal migrants, what steps has the national government taken to ease the plight of local governments experiencing a sudden influx of migrants and a huge jump in their dependent populations?

A shift in population of such magnitude has an impact on such fields as housing, job generation, food security, water, and yes, even peace and order. Is there an effort to coordinate the responses of various agencies and to study the short- and long-term impacts of this demographic shift?

Another aspect of the problem worth studying are the reasons that "pushed" these thousands of migrants out of their towns and cities and to Malaysia. Most of the migrant families who had lived in Sabah for the last 30 years or so fled Sulu when the islands came under military assault and when Jolo was razed to the ground. The majority of the newer migrants are said to hail from Basilan, and Gov. Wahab Akbar attributes their leaving to the "unstable peace and order situation" in the province.

This shows us that war, criminality and violence are "population issues," too. They serve as "push" factors that trigger shifts in population to less volatile areas in the country or, in the case of the Tausugs and Samals who have always considered Sabah part of their home anyway, to another territory altogether.

* * *

ALSO a population story is the arrest and imminent release of 122 Chinese poachers, many of whom were caught fishing inside the protected area of the Tubbataha Reef.

Recovered from the poachers caught at Tubbataha, says an INQUIRER report, were two dolphins and 20 endangered fish. Seven sacks of live coral and seaweeds were seized from the poachers at Scarborough Shoal.

The story is being billed as an "environment vs. politics" story, since the Department of Foreign Affairs has promised that no charges would be filed against the 122 detainees allegedly in preparation for the arrival of Li Peng, chair of China's National People's Progress. This decision has been assailed by environment organizations, citing the threat posed to our marine resources and environment by illegal fishers, many of them foreign.

In an interview on TV, World Wildlife Fund Philippine chair Lory Tan said at issue are not just a few rare fish or living coral beds. "The issue is food security," he said. Experts estimate that about 90 percent of our marine food sources has been depleted, he said, but conserving the remaining 10 percent seems impossible since a large proportion of our population relies on seafood as their primary source of protein.

* * *

BUT how can we properly manage our marine resources when these are constantly under threat by illegal and foreign fishermen and poachers?, asked Tan.

That's why the release of the Chinese, without so much as a slap on the wrist, sends a bad signal, like holding up a sign saying Philippine waters, among the most biodiverse environments in the world, is open to all comers. If the illegal fishing continues unabated, that means marine food supplies will disappear much sooner than originally thought. And once there isn't any more fish or crabs, shrimps, squid and other marine life to eat, then hundreds of families will go hungry.

And that's how an environment and politics story could also be a population story.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Rizal's Sandakan dreams

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE RECENT mass deportation of "undocumented" Filipinos from Sabah by Malaysian authorities made me reach for Jose Rizal's correspondence in 1892. Some people thought the historian in me was acting like an ostrich hiding his head in the ground at the first sign of danger. Why hide in the past when you should confront the present? The media were getting people worked up on the alleged maltreatment of Filipinos by Malaysian authorities and here I am going through Rizal's letters to a certain William B. Pryer who, some sources claim, was the first resident and acknowledged founder of Sandakan. In Rizal's time Sandakan was the capital of North Borneo, now Sabah. Rizal was in exile in Hong Kong and he made a little-known visit to Sandakan not as a tourist or illegal immigrant. Rizal proposed Sandakan as a safe haven for his family, relatives, friends and others who were persecuted by the Spanish government. It is not well known that Rizal encouraged the agrarian unrest in Calamba that led to the eviction of his family from Calamba. Some people I discussed this with recently went as far as saying, tongue-in-cheek of course, that if Rizal succeeded in establishing a "New Calamba" in Sandakan, the Philippines would not have the present crisis on her hands. Perhaps, the Philippine claim to Sabah would have been settled in our favor because our very own Rizal was already there. One cannot speculate on what would or should have happened to Rizal in 1892, but if Rizal settled in Sandakan then he would not be shot in the Luneta on Dec. 30, 1896 and our history would have taken a completely different turn of events. Whether this is good or bad I leave to your imagination.

It seems the administrators of British North Borneo were anxious to have a rice-producing settlement in Sandakan to augment its meager produce. Rizal suggested bringing in people experienced in rice cultivation from Calamba and in return was promised 5,000 acres of rent free land for the first three years if the proposed Filipino colony agreed to plant and develop rice. Prospects were promising and at the time of Rizal's visit to Sandakan, one of his sisters gleefully wrote in a letter that their children would grow up there—"*Ang mga maliliit natin ay magiging taga*-Borneo *na*." Rizal even wrote the Spanish governor general to allow the persecuted ones to migrate to Sandakan. In April 1892 Rizal met with Pryer who summarized the points discussed and sent it to Rizal in writing. We do not know what Rizal as "representative of the Tagal Syndicate" had to say about the terms that follow:

"You are to have the option for eight months of purchasing 1,000 acres of the corporation lands situated on the Byte, Gum Gum Kabeli or Dewhurst Bay. During the next ensuing three years you are to have the option of buying a further 5,000 acres of land at the same places. The conditions on which this land is purchased are:

"1. The price if to be $6 an acre payable 1/3 when the arrangement for the purchase is completed, 1/3 within six months from that date and the remaining 1/3 within twelve months.

"The leases are to be for 950 years. [Perhaps this is an error and he meant 95 years?]

"The selection of the particular lots of land is to be subject to the approval of the manager of the British North Borneo Dunlop Corp. Limited. And also to there being no previous claim of any kind to any part of the land or arrangement to let it to anyone else.

"All the land is subject to the Land and other Laws and regulations in force in British North Borneo. Should there be any improvements on the land so purchased by you, you must repay the Dunlop Corp. the cost of such improvements without any profit being added.

"During the next three years (from this date) you are to have the option—with a proviso as noted below—of purchase of a further area of land up to 10,000 acres in extent on the Benjuya and Maroap rivers, and if the railway concession falls through on the Moaund as well at $4 an acre the terms and stipulations, the same as in the case of the Byte lands already mentioned above—provided however that a four-month notice is given that this option is proposed to be exercised during the four months the Dunlop Corp. is to have the power of confirming or disallowing this option.

"The Dunlop Corp. will fill and rough clear the land, build houses and rough plant gardens, and also if so required provide food not exceeding in value a total of $27 a family, the amount spent for house and food to be a loan, total not to exceed $57, repayable within three years without the addition of any interest for that period. The lease to be for 21 years, the rent to be one-third of a *picul* of Manila Hemp (worth $9 per *picul*) per acre, per annum or other produce of an equivalent value in lieu thereof..."

To cut a long story short, the Spanish government refused to allow the evicted Calamba people to emigrate to Sandakan, and the person Rizal was dealing with could not speak for the British North Borneo company. Thus, ended Rizal's dream to establish his paradise on earth, the New Calamba in Sabah. He packed his bags, returned to Manila, was deported to Dapitan and the rest, as they say, is history. But then it is worth wondering what would have happened to our history if he succeeded.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

A CT scan, an MRI

HIGH BLOOD

Violeta Narvas-Santos

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

EXPECT the unexpected. That is what I have often been told, so nothing can ever spring a surprise on you. After all, life is full of surprises—some pleasant, others not so.

I always prided myself on my well-being. I have been religiously, nay, fanatically observing the rules of good health—you know, eating well-balanced meals, including (ugh) vegetables, sleeping the regulatory number of hours, exercising, disdaining undesirable habits like smoking, drinking, (except for a sociable sip of wine now and then), avoiding fat and bad cholesterol, etc., etc. A doctor would consider me an ideal, obedient patient. I can perhaps credit my reaching this ripe old age by following this strict, disgusting, boring regimen.

I look down my nose with a superior air at sweet young things half my age who would grunt and heave while working out in the gym. They would pant and wheeze while I breezily do the repetitive, energy-expending exercise.

Another capital sin of mine—vanity—is what keeps me at this, despite the unholy hours, the sweaty feeling, the inconvenience, the daily agony of deciding what gym suit to wear and some other things besides. But there are upsides, too. The early morning drive is truly exhilarating—the air is still clean and pure, no traffic, no pesky cops to restrain your speed limit and you arrive to the welcome greetings of congenial people who share the same goals and aspirations as you—to shed unwanted pounds and gain a sexier, shapelier body.

What's more, they say exercise makes you look younger. This I can validate from experience. People raise their eyebrows in disbelief when I disclose my age—and flatteringly say I look 10 years younger. Sincere or not, I do feel it—I get up from bed with a spring in my steps, no arthritic aches and pains. And because I feel healthy I want everybody in the family to be in the best of health, too. So I nag my dear hubby to irritation about taking his daily dose of vitamins, dragging him (kicking and screaming) to the doctor with dreadful (for him) regularity. I have a sneaking suspicion the quite substantial weekly prescriptions we buy keep the corner drugstore comfortably out of the red.

We were coasting along comfortably like this, when out of the blue—disaster! One bright day, about five minutes after arriving from my daily workout, something dreadful happened. The maid wondered why I was stirring my cup of coffee endlessly. Just then I had a call, and they said I talked nonsense to the one on the line. They said I dazedly kept asking my husband where I was, where I lived and where I have been. I vociferously contradicted anyone who answered. I walked about distractedly, wondering about my clothes, etc. Greatly alarmed, my husband made out like a healer and began massaging my back, soothing me with a "relax, relax *lang*." Mercifully, after about 15 minutes of this flight from reality, I came back as suddenly as I left it. Gradually, the face of my maid came into focus, what she was telling me made sense and I fully comprehended what she was saying. My surroundings became real again and I felt I was back to earth. Once again, I was completely and totally aware of the people around me, apprehension written all over their faces. While "out," it was like I was in a dream, a trance-like state and my husband said I kept repeating "Where am I? Where are we?" and was mouthing nonsensical, puzzling utterances. I remember I was conscious that I was struggling mightily to clutch at a memory. The effect manifested itself in my holding my bowed head between my hands. I am trying to recall as best as I can what happened to me while in "that state" because I learned that this experience is becoming common among the aging population.

I was back in no time to my cheery old self, ready to go to an appointment, belittling the episode as just one of those things. My usually indulgent husband put his foot down. "Dress up," he imperiously commanded, in a tone which brooked no defiance. "We're seeing a doctor!"

I was diagnosed as having experienced TIA (transient ischemic attack to the uninitiated). It occurs when blood supply fails to reach the brain cells due to blocking caused by high cholesterol. The doctor says there are three kinds of strokes: (a) mild—recovery is within three hours (like mine); (b) acute—recovery is within 24 hours; and (c) the stroke *na talaga*—recovery may be never. (I hope I got that right). In my case, what was affected, what got blood supply-starved was the memory area in my brain. (Lucky for me it was just that—there are memories anyway that I'd like to block out forever.) If it were the speech area, one gets slurred speech, if it's the motor area, it's one's mobility that suffers and one gets paralyzed, partially or totally.

Doctor's orders: diet is primary—bad cholesterol clogs and clings and coats your blood vessels and its ingestion should be reduced/minimized—*sayonara chicharon, lechon, aligue*, prawns and crabs. Some defy the warning, rationalizing, "Life is too short to eat boring food." But it's really your choice—a long dull life or a short exciting one.

I was advised to undergo a CT scan, a procedure by which they can peer into the insides of my brain, and a carotid exam or other—something like former President Fidel Ramos underwent when he suddenly lost consciousness during a meeting, remember? (At least, I'm in exalted company, I consoled myself.) What is a CT scan like? Well, one gets into an igloo-like circular contraption. One must've seen this in movies but it's a strange feeling when you find yourself in one actually. They inject something into you, then your hands are secured, and for the next 15 minutes or so you are immobile while currents are run through your brain. Unless you make yourself tense from fright or nervousness, it is really quite a relaxing experience.

When the doctor saw the results, his body language sent a shiver through my spine. Moreover his grim face wasn't very reassuring. Oh, oh—I surmised something must be terribly wrong. My guess was right. He cautiously said that the X-rays showed some doubtful shadows he couldn't be sure of, so he had to order another test—an MRI (magnetic resonance imagery) this time. It could be a tumor or growth. My fears ran riot. I had a 24-hour agonizing wait.

An MRI is somewhat similar to the CT scan. You feel like you're in a tomb as you're pushed deep into its cavernous depths. It is more diagnostically accurate than a CT scan. Woe to him who has agoraphobia (fear of enclosed spaces). It would definitely be terrifying.

For me who has too much bravado, it was not too bad. I was so relaxed gazing as if hypnotized by the laser light above (which was not supposed to be stared at, as what a sign warned, which I totally ignored). Would you believe, I actually stole my usual 40 winks while under its scrutiny. (My daughter says how typical of me—reacting to a frightening experience with maddening insouciance.)

But I was so much on tenterhooks, I demanded an immediate reading of the results, so the suspense would mercifully end. Praise the Lord, hallelujah! The doctor intoned that the shadows seen before were a false alarm—in medical lingo, artifactual. To say that the weight of the world on my shoulders was lifted is a masterpiece of understatement.

Violeta Narvas-Santos is in her late 60s, a mother of four and Nanay to three lovable grandchildren, and although ready and prepared for whatever, feels there is still much to live for.

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Are there really no alternatives?

I HAVE been Amando Doronila's fan since pre-martial law days. I read him first, so his defense of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's action against the sidewalk vendors came as a shock. There are legitimate protests necessary to redress abusive actions from people in authority, especially when the structures and institutions necessary to handle the problems of the people are weak and biased in favor of the better-off population.

Sometimes I wonder why we hate the poor so much. Why are they the first to go whenever we implement development projects? Look at the sidewalks used as parking areas by the well-off. Why aren't they the first to go? I don't think the vendors are conscious they are doing wrong when they use the sidewalks or streets. Their main preoccupation is how to earn enough to send their children to school, feed them and cure their sick. Have they really harmed us, except for the inconvenience of a crowded sidewalk? Compare them to prominent people who have done almost irreparable damage to the whole country and its people. Yet they continue to be in the limelight and are still very influential and respected despite their crimes. The poor lack the skills to be in the mainstream of the work force; to survive they have to do mean jobs, of which vending on sidewalks is a good example.

A country that is not able to feed and educate 50 percent of its people cannot pretend it has modern cities where there is no room for the poor. If we can't educate our people to compete for good jobs, how can we forbid them to make a living as best they can? Can't we think of alternatives to help?

I don't believe the vendors are causing the traffic problems as much as the malls. New York and big cities everywhere have found a way to accommodate sidewalk vendors. In Bangkok for example, the sidewalk vendors are an attraction, people like them and they provide cheap, good food. Why can't we do the same? Mayor Lito Atienza has good suggestions on this subject. Let us set aside pride and ego-tripping.

—ALICIA GENTOLIA MURPHY,
Urban Poor Associates, 28-B
Matino St., Sikatuna Village,
Barangay Malaya, QC

The only choices left to vendors?

VIEWED in isolation, vending on sidewalks can be seen as a nuisance per se and, therefore, ought to be dealt with summarily, as MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando does.

But vending on sidewalks is a manifestation of larger problems: hunger, poverty and injustice. According to a footage repeatedly played by BBC recently, fully 40 percent of 80 million Filipinos—30 million Filipinos in round figures—"live below the poverty line." Some of them, says BBC, reside with the dead in cemeteries, as symbolized by a boy sleeping on a tomb on which the legend "R.I.P." is inscribed. Others, BBC adds, inhabit squatter colonies along railways, and the footage flashes children playing right on a railway.

With the use of enough brute force, including kerosene-spraying, Fernando's simple law-enforcement approach may succeed in removing vendors from sidewalks. But where will they go? There are no jobs waiting for them in manufacturing, agriculture or the services, which are all currently depressed. The vacant market stalls Fernando is talking about are either beyond the sidewalk vendors' means or will not let them earn even the meager income sidewalk-vending yields. What Fernando seeks to destroy is actually the last lifeline of the sidewalk vendors.

Today, in our country, there are only four remaining growth areas, namely: criminality, insurgency, gambling and graft and corruption. There is a fifth area—population growth—but at the rate Filipinos are killing each other these days, this has been neutralized. On the other hand, graft and corruption is open only to the rich and powerful, certainly not to sidewalk vendors. The sidewalk vendors' puny capital will not matter in gambling. Which means that when forced away from the sidewalks, vendors can turn only to criminality or insurgency.

Now, which is preferable from the policy point of view—to let sidewalk vendors inconvenience commuters while we are waiting for an economic rebound or to drive them, out of desperation, into the folds of criminal syndicates or the New People's Army?

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Unit 391 Union Square
Condominium, 145 15th Ave.,
Cubao, Quezon City

Defective products endanger lives

DURING the installation of Gen. Roy Cimatu as Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, the plastic chairs occupied by some of the invited guests on stage suddenly collapsed, causing injury and embarrassment to many. In another recent incident, the Philippine ambassador to Iraq died of electrocution while taking a shower using a water heater.

The two accidents are certainly not the only ones that have been caused by defective products. But even in these two cases no investigation was conducted to determine the culpability of manufacturers of the defective items which caused death and injury to persons.

I believe it is the responsibility of the Department of Trade and Industry to see to it that all products meet safety standards before they are sold to the public. In the meantime, the government agency should inform the public who the manufacturer was and the brand of the water heater which caused the death of the ambassador as well as the maker of the defective plastic chairs.

The DTI should also lose no time in determining the safety of those imported gadgets that heat water by immersing it directly in water. It should also check on the cheap fluorescent tubes openly sold in sidewalks to prevent fire. If found to be violating safety standards, they should be confiscated.

—L. ENCHONG SEE,
enchong@eudoramail.com

Use pork to buy fire trucks

ABOUT three years ago, a news item caught my attention. It said that "only 500 of the 1,500 municipalities in our country have one fire truck each." That meant that two-thirds or 1,000 towns in our country do not have a fire truck of their own.

With the passage of time, I have a feeling some of these 500 fire trucks are already out of service due to old age, poor maintenance, lack of spare parts, etc. The big question is: What happens to these municipalities with no fire trucks when fire hits their place? I guess the residents there will probably just use their "*timba*" and "*tabo*" to put out the fire. Heaven forbid!

In this connection, I would like to appeal to our congressmen and senators to use a portion of their "pork barrel" funds to buy fire trucks for these poor municipalities.

We have a saying in Tagalog: "*Mabuti pa na ikaw ay manakawan, huwag lang masunugan.*" Truly, fires impoverish families and nations.

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court, Malanday,
Marikina City

Moratorium on partisan politics

ATTRACTING the public's attention is certainly a favorite preoccupation of politicians. This is why Russian leader Nikita S. Khruschev described them as individuals who "promise to build a bridge even where there is no river." But not when the country is facing a systemic crisis.

Sen. Serge Osmeña's move to divert his investigation from the College Assurance Plan (CAP) Corp. to smaller pre-need companies may not be a good idea at this time, when the whole industry is suffering from a serious financial crunch. Ditto with Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice's accusation of deficit spending hurled against Mayor Rey Malonzo, supported by a dateless and unsigned Commission on Audit (COA) report.

What is badly needed is for our politicians to temporarily set aside partisan politics until we are "over the hump." What we're up against is the worst financial crisis in 50 years, due to a global "floating rate" casino economy prescribed by the World Bank-International Monetary Fund. Therefore, the sooner we get our acts together, the better for all of us.

—ERICK SAN JUAN,
Suite 1402, 1st e-Bank Tower
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

A case of debtor arresting creditor

WE write you to shed light on the arrest of Lou Atienza which you reported last Aug. 23. This was a case of a creditor being arrested by a debtor.

Atienza, a former master mariner and now president of the Euro-Asiatic Shipping Inc., is still wondering what he has done wrong to deserve the "entrapment."

That Thursday, Atienza was waiting for his former Korean partner, Soo Jin-rhim, to turn up with his first payment for a loan amounting to P1.6 million.

Earlier, Rhim had called up to arrange the meeting so he could pay his obligations. As expected, Atienza was ecstatic that finally he would be paid for his advances in their almost 14-month old joint-venture, a freight forwarding business.

The appointment was set for 9:30 a.m., but Rhim showed up at 11 a.m. with an entourage of military-looking persons. It was late when Atienza knew what was happening.

He was immediately handcuffed as soon as the agents entered the room. Even his accountant, who was about to enter the room to issue receipt for the payment was not allowed entry.

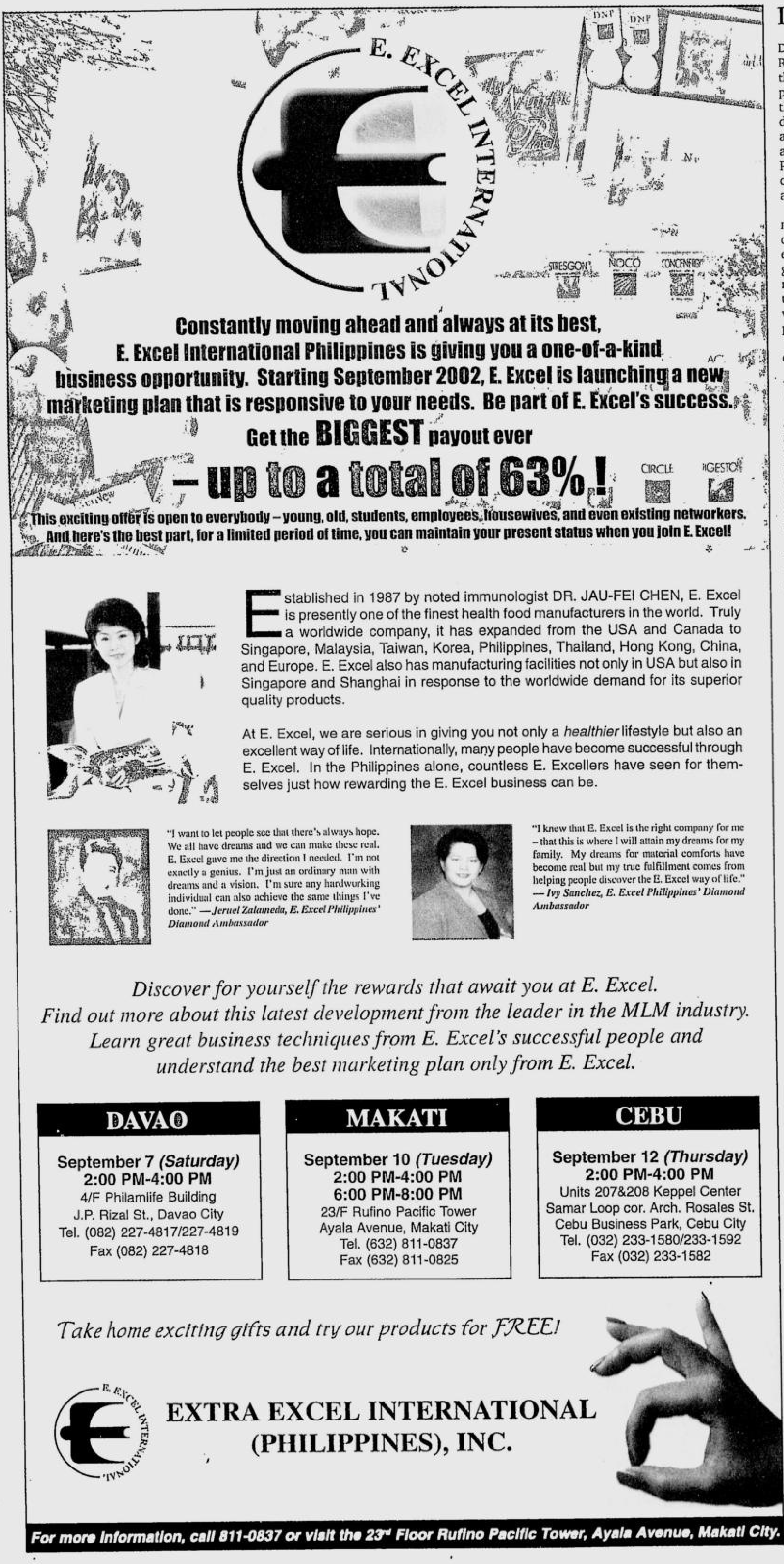
After "entrapping" Atienza, the National Bureau of Investigation agents brought the two immediately to their offices.

During the confrontation, it came out that the Korean has obligations to settle with Atienza, who was led to believe that payment was to be made that morning. Atienza produced documents duly notarized and signed by Rhim, attesting that the latter owed the former some P1.6 million from their business partnership. He was immediately released when he produced the documents proving that the Korean had outstanding obligations with him.

Atienza also explained that their office got hold of of Rhim's travel documents as well as those of his wife and daughters when Atienza intervened in the Koreans behalf in a deportation case.

Atienza apologized for his abrasive manner during the arrest. He said that he was surprised by the turn of events.

—CAPT. LOU A. ATIENZA,
chair of the board and president,
Euro-Asiatic Shipping Inc.,
12th Floor, Victoria Bldg.,
429 UN Ave., Manila



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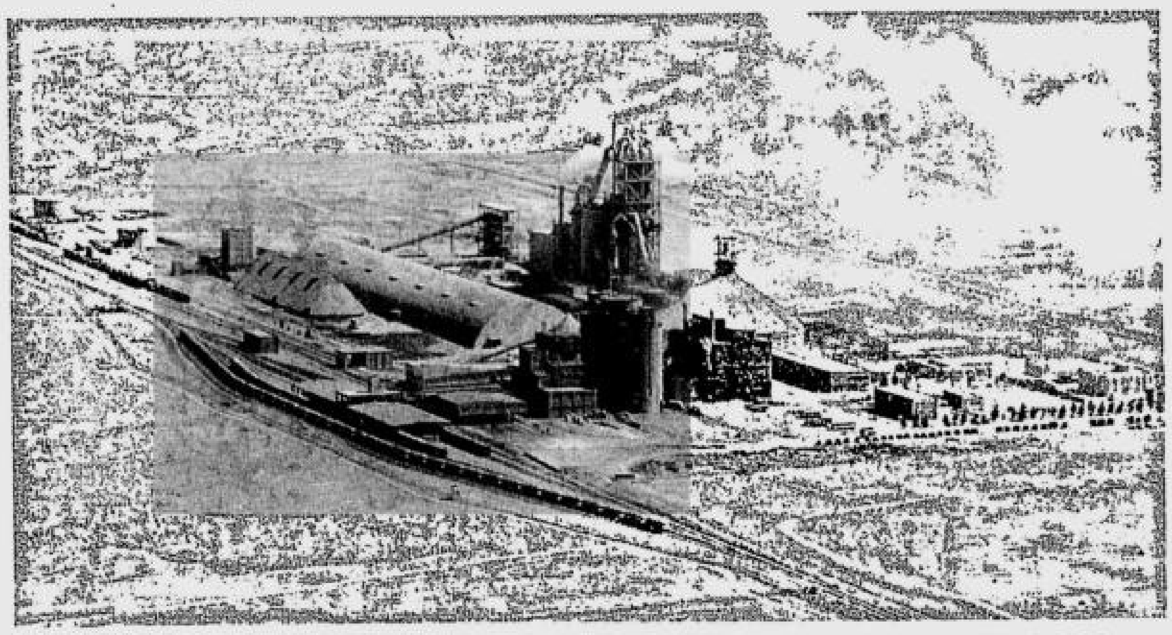
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iraq braces for war but hopes for solution



AN AERIAL view shows a phosphate complex at al Qaim, Anbar province, 420 km west of Baghdad Sept. 2. Iraq, accused by Washington of being part of an "axis of evil," took reporters on a tour of the facility stamped by the West as a weapons site, as part of a campaign to repudiate US allegations that it is stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. REUTERS

JOHANNESBURG—Iraq is bracing for a US attack but is ready to cooperate with the UN Security Council on the crisis and believes "a solution can be found," Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz told reporters here Tuesday.

Speaking after meeting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the Earth Summit, Aziz said, "This is a crisis."

"We are taking the threat very seriously. It's our responsibility, and we are preparing ourselves to defend our country."

Aziz said that he and Annan "exchanged our legitimate concerns." The secretary general did not emerge after the half-hour meeting.

Aziz said US concerns were not genuine, but added: "We can find a solution." "We are ready to cooperate (with the UN Security Council) and explain our position," he said, without elaborating.

In his speech to assembled world leaders at the summit on Monday, Aziz warned: "The United States is threatening to launch another large-scale aggression against Iraq."

"We will fight against them. This is our obligation," he later told reporters.

The United States has threatened to strike Iraq to topple President Saddam Hussein on the grounds that he is developing weapons of mass destruction.

Aziz said Monday that Iraq "could consider" allowing UN weapons inspectors back in "as part of a comprehensive settlement" with Washington.

"This issue (of weapon inspectors) is not the only issue. Sanctions, the continuous aggression, threats of war—all these issues have to be addressed," he said. *AFP*

Churches urge US to stop threat

GENEVA—The World Council of Churches called on the United States to stop threatening military action against Iraq, saying it was alarmed and concerned by Washington's aim of overthrowing the Baghdad government.

It also called on US allies to resist pressure to join any "preemptive military strikes against a sovereign state" under the pretext of the war on terrorism.

The Council, which includes virtually all Christian churches except the Roman Catholic Church, said that Iraq should comply with UN demands it destroy its weapons of mass destruction and guarantee full political, economic, social and cultural rights to its people. *Reuters*

Swedish court orders plane hijack suspect be kept in custody

VAESTERAAS—A Swedish district court on Monday ordered Kerim Chatti of Sweden remanded in custody on suspicion of planning to hijack a Britain-bound flight last week and illegal possession of a firearm.

Chatti, 29, was arrested on Thursday by security police at the small Vaesteraas airport north of Stockholm after a loaded 6.5 mm pistol was found in his carry-on luggage during security checks ahead of a Ryanair flight to London and Birmingham.

Judge Thomas Wallin ordered Chatti held in custody to prevent him from trying to "destroy evidence, interfere with the investigation and continue his criminal activities."

Prosecutor Thomas Haeggstroem had earlier asked the court to hold Chatti on suspicion of "preparing a hijacking, air traffic sabotage, or airport sabotage" and "violating Swedish gun laws."

Formally, Chatti was remanded in custody on only two of the preliminary charges, preparing a hijacking and violating the gun laws.

The judge gave the prosecution until September 16 to file formal charges against Chatti.

The incident occurred just days before the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks, in which four airliners were hijacked and crashed into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon outside Washington and a field in Pennsylvania.

But while speculation was rife that Chatti would have been preparing a similar attack—media reports at the weekend said he had planned to crash the plane into a US embassy in Europe—the prosecutor in the case said he had no proof to support such a claim.

"I have no evidence at this stage that he wanted to crash a plane," he told reporters, saying investigators had yet to establish a motive.

"The key question in the upcoming investigation will be to determine the motive," said Haeggstroem.

Chatti, born in Sweden to a Tunisian father and a Swedish mother, addressed the court Monday only to confirm his presence, before his lawyer Nils Uggla argued his client had no plans to hijack the airplane.

"He contests all the suspicions against him apart from the weapons violation. He admits that there is probable cause for suspicion of weapons violation," Uggla told the court. *AFP*

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, left, speaks with an unidentified delegate during the plenary session of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg Sept. 2. AP

Negotiators finish Earth Summit plan

JOHANNESBURG—With world leaders taking the stage and demanding action, negotiators at the World Summit put the finishing touches on a global plan to improve the lives of the poor while preserving the environment.

Some of the more than 100 world leaders gathered here kicked off their portion of the 10-day summit Monday with impassioned pleas for solutions to a litany of problems, including starvation in Africa, European and Asian floods, and financial crises in the Americas.

"Humanity has a rendezvous with destiny," French President Jacques Chirac declared. "Alarms are sounding across all the continents . . . We cannot say that we did not know!"

Late Monday, negotiators resolved the last main sticking points in a 70-odd page action plan covering a slew of environmental and development woes, including energy, clean water, health and sanitation. Most of the items were geared to helping the world's poorest people without polluting.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged delegates to commit to firm action to solve problems identified a decade ago at the Earth Summit in Rio.

"The focus from now on must be on implementing the many agreements that have been reached," he said.

Though US President George W. Bush stayed home—sending US Secretary of State Colin Powell in his place—US officials say they are firmly committed to the summit's success.

After more than a week of bargaining, the European Union lost its push for targets on the use of wind and solar energy—the last major sticking point in the summit's action plan.

The agreed text includes a commitment to "urgently" increase the use of renewable energy sources, but also allows for the expanded use of hydroelectric damns and fossil fuels that are modified to pollute less, diplomats said.

Developing countries had sided with the United States and Japan against including the targets, arguing they were a rich country's luxury.

US officials said the final wording "properly reflects" how a "diversity of clean energy resources" will contribute to sustainable development.

"The document clearly highlights the need to increase access to modern energy services and signals the valuable role renewable energy will play in the future," said Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky, head of the US delegation.

Compromises were also reached in three other key areas: climate change, trade and sanitation.

Despite the Bush administration's refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, it accepted language that says nations backing Kyoto "strongly urge" states that have not done so to ratify it in "a timely manner."

Negotiators agreed to text urging countries to reform subsidies that favor industrialized countries or are harmful to the environment.

They also committed to halving the 2 billion people living without proper sanitation by 2015, diplomats said. *AP*

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Israel Supreme Court approves expulsion of bombers' relatives

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Supreme Court on Tuesday gave the go-ahead to expel to the Gaza Strip two relatives of a West Bank militant, an unprecedented move in the current conflict, as violence on the ground claimed two more Palestinian lives.

The Palestinian leadership described the court decision to allow the army to banish two out of three of the relatives of militants as "collective punishment" and a "black day for human rights."

The ruling means the army will banish to Gaza Kifah and Intissar Adjuri, brother and sister of Ali Adjuri, a slain West Bank chief of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Their brother Ali Adjuri, killed by Israeli forces in August, was accused of organizing a double suicide bombing that killed five people, plus the bombers, in Tel Aviv on July 17.

The court said Intissar Adjuri "directly helped her brother by sewing the belt containing the explosives which he used in the attack," although Intissar had earlier pleaded in a military court that she did not know how to sew.

In addition, the court said Kifah had provided his sibling with a hide-out and acted as a lookout while the explosives were being transported.

Israeli radio said the two would be expelled on Wednesday.

But the judges ruled there was insufficient evidence to confirm the complicity of Abdel Nasser Assidi in the attack by his brother, a member of the Islamic group Hamas wanted by Israeli security forces for a July 16 bus ambush near a West Bank settlement that left nine people dead.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat described the decision as "collective punishment" and a "black day for human rights."

He said the Palestinian Authority was considering taking the case before the International Court of Justice or to the UN Security Council.

The army denied the move was collective punishment, as the deportees were found guilty of complicity, and hopes the move will help deter future attacks.

It has also launched a controversial policy of destroying the homes of suicide bombers and gunmen to put off attackers.

Palestinians security officials said 10 members of the same family were injured in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip overnight when an Israeli army bulldozer demolished their house as they were sleeping.

Meanwhile, the violence continued on the ground in the Palestinian territories, despite a month-long lull in attacks inside Israel.

Two Palestinians were killed by shelling from Israeli tanks south of Nablus in the West Bank, Palestinian security officials said.

The two victims, aged 21 and 23, were not known to belong to any organization, the officials said, adding that they did not know why the Israeli soldiers opened fire near the village of Burin.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer on Monday ordered a probe into the alarming number of Palestinian civilians who have been killed in recent weeks by the army, which has reoccupied almost the entire West Bank since mid-June. The army has until Friday to explain itself.

An armed Palestinian was also killed overnight in clashes in the Gaza Strip in a failed ambush on an Israeli military convoy. *AFP*

UNITED for peace—Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim conducts a concert for Middle East peace in Strasbourg Sept. 2. Israeli, Palestinian and other Arab musicians are playing together in the concert. AFP

Munich attack opened foreign front for Israeli reprisals

By Dan Williams

JERUSALEM—When Black September gunmen took Israeli athletes hostage at the Munich Olympics 30 years ago, Israel exacted deadly retribution from the leaders of the shadowy Palestinian group.

Weeks after the September 1972 raid and botched German rescue ended in the deaths of 11 Israelis, Black September men began dying in bomb and gun ambushes throughout Europe. A commando raid on Beirut killed another three militant leaders.

What was then a new tactic of assassination against Palestinian enemies on foreign shores is now a pre-emptive and punitive policy of killing militants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who use suicide bombings in their popular uprising against Israel.

Israel never denied responsibility for the assassinations—10, in all—which security sources said then-prime minister Golda Meir ordered the Mossad intelligence agency to carry out.

Publicly, she had pledged in parliament "to strike at the terrorist organizations wherever we can (out of) duty to ourselves and to peace."

Former Israeli intelligence agent Yigal Eyal, a Hebrew University lecturer on insurgency, said "international terrorism" by Black September and other groups had spiraled in the early 1970s with letter-bombings and attacks on embassies.

"The Munich massacre finally galvanized Israel into deciding that if countries abroad could not guarantee its citizens' safety, it would do so, by whatever means necessary."

This ethic of self-sufficiency was behind Israel's decision to dispatch commandos to Entebbe, Uganda in 1976 to rescue Israeli and other Jewish hostages from a hijacked Air France flight, Eyal said.

Zvi Zamir, who as chief of the Mossad watched German police bungle the rescue attempt at Furstenfeldbruck air base outside Munich, recalled in a US television interview that he discussed Israel's options for retribution with Meir.

"Golda wanted very much that the people will be brought to trial. But she realized that this is impossible," Zvi Zamir told CBS.

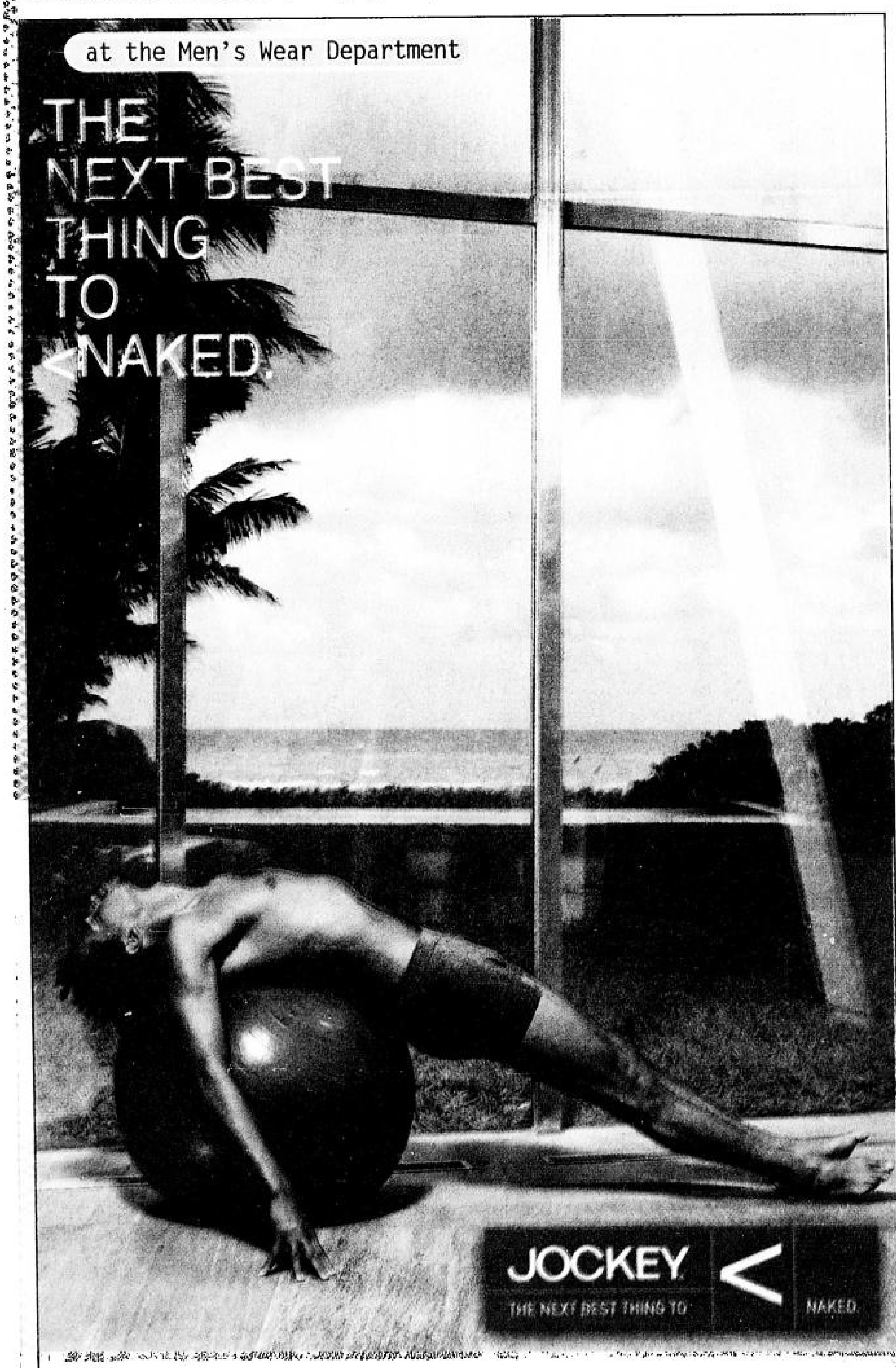
The assassinations began a month later, when men armed with small-caliber pistols surprised Black September operations chief Ahmed Wael Zwaiter outside his home in Rome.

Similar attacks followed in Rome, Cyprus and Paris. In the latter, a bomb was planted in the telephone of Mahmoud Hamshari, Black September commander in France.

Israel's chief of staff at the time, General David Elazar, declared in an Israeli television interview that Israel was waging a "war on terror."

Israel maintains its security forces kill as a last resort, and describes Palestinian militants slain in missile or sniper strikes as "ticking bombs" en route to attacks. But some security experts allow that revenge is in itself a valid motive.

"From the beginning of time, man has needed to feel that his pain is revisited on the party who inflicted it," Eyal said. *Reuters*



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Typhoon also leaves many dead in famine-hit N. Korea

BEIJING—Typhoon "Rusa," which left "scores" of people dead in North Korea over the weekend, has also damaged large areas of vital crops in the famine-hit country, international aid agencies and diplomats said Tuesday.

Although they appear to have been spared the full power of the storm, which left more than 200 dead or missing in South Korea, the North's people could be badly affected because of their precarious food situation, agencies said.

"From what we saw, it's nothing on the scale of what happened in South Korea, so they missed the worst of it," said a Pyongyang-based Western diplomat who has visited some of the disaster-struck areas.

The government mouthpiece the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Monday that damage from the storm was "huge" and "scores" were killed, with a large area of farmland flooded or washed away along the east coast near the border with the South.

Due to roads and bridges being washed out, authorities said they had only been able to assess half of the areas in the eastern coastal part of the country hit by Rusa, said Rick Corsino, director of the UN World Food Programme in North Korea.

The International Red Cross said Tuesday that preliminary assessments indicated four to five counties have been affected by Rusa, with about 1,000 families displaced.

Aid agencies and diplomats, however, were only able to visit two of the counties, Tongchon and Anbyon, both in Kangwon province.

In both counties, 2,500 ha of rice fields had been flooded to some extent, Corsino said.

It was too early to assess the extent of crop damage as flood waters needed to first subside, he said.

Any widespread crop loss would be a severe blow to North Korea, which is suffering particularly acute food shortages this year due to a drop-off in international aid.

REPAIRMEN work on a flood-damaged railroad to restore power and telecommunications lines in South Korea's eastern city of Gangneung Sept. 3. Typhoon "Rusa," the worst in more than four decades, left some 200 people dead or missing. AFP

Kangwon province also suffered substantial floods last October, which affected 50,000 ha of fields and killed 81 people.

While the current flooding is not so widespread, families have had vegetable gardens and vital winter food supplies destroyed along with their homes.

"In terms of the individual families, individual cooperatives affected, yes it's quite severe," said Corsino.

However, the rice fields are much stronger and capable of withstanding flood damage this year because of substantial fertilizer donations and there is a good chance the crops can mostly survive the floods, he said. *AFP*

Indonesia tags separatist rebels for attack which killed US teachers

JAKARTA—Indonesia's government has formally blamed separatist rebels for an armed attack which killed two American teachers and one Indonesian in Papua province.

"The government of the Republic of Indonesia condemns the barbaric shooting by an armed separatist group . . . which resulted in senseless death of an Indonesian and two Americans," the foreign ministry said in a statement received Tuesday.

The government is "determined to apprehend the perpetrators of this heinous act of terror and to bring them to justice," the statement said.

The army has blamed followers of Kelly Kwalik, a local leader of the Free Papua Movement (OPM), for the attack on Saturday near the huge gold and copper mine operated by US company Freeport in Timika district.

Nine Americans and three Indonesians were injured when the two minibuses they were in came under fire.

Seven of the Americans and one of the Indonesians—including a girl aged six—were airlifted to hospital in Australia and were said to be in stable condition.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Marty Natalegawa, asked why the government believes separatist rebels were responsible, said: "There's a strong indication. The pattern, the location, point to separatists."

The insurgents denied involvement in the bloodiest attack for decades on foreigners in the resource-rich province. Other Papuan groups suggested the army itself may have been responsible to create a pretext for a crackdown on separatists.

Amnesty International on Monday warned the military not to use the attack to justify harsh operations, saying that past assaults have resulted in gross human rights violations against civilians.

The rights group, commenting on suggestions of military involvement, said "it would not be the first time that the Indonesian military has been suspected of provoking armed attacks or other disturbances in Papua or elsewhere in Indonesia in recent years." *AFP*

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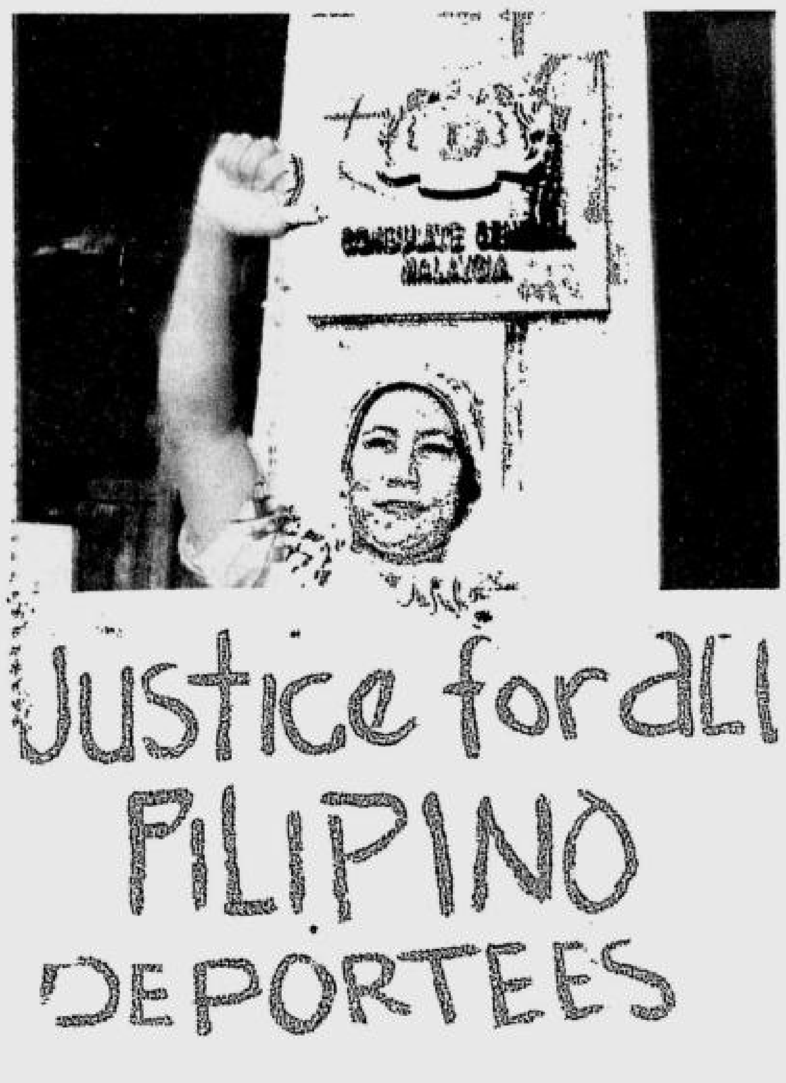

A MORO woman joins an indignation rally in Davao City against Malaysia which commemorated Merdeka, its foundation day, on Monday.
BING GONZALES

Tawi-Tawi carries burden of caring for ousted Pinoys

By Rolly A. San Juan
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—What had been perceived as a problem for this city, the dumping of thousands of Filipino illegal migrants from Malaysia, had been passed on to Bongao, the capital town of Tawi-Tawi.

Although the elected officials of Bongao led by Mayor Albert Kue and its residents have welcomed the deportees, the signs of concern are etched on their faces, knowing that the town's meager resources cannot sustain the needs of the poor and malnourished boat people for long.

Kue said he hoped the national leadership will also realize the predicament faced by his administration in terms of funding.

It was learned that some 10,000 deportees have been brought to Bongao from Malaysia for the processing of their papers prior to their return to their places of origin.

About 100,000 deportees are expected to be dumped in Bongao which had been designated by Malacañang as the processing center to resolve the deportees' problems.

"From sardines, we have shifted to giving them chicken noodles as the deportees have started to complain about their food," Kue said, adding that his office has extended help to the deportees' other basic needs. If the deportee problem will last for months, they expect to face problems on peace and order, housing and unemployment.

Another 3,000 deportees are expected to arrive in Bongao next week.

During her visit in Bongao last Thursday, President Macapagal-Arroyo directed the national government's line agencies to coordinate with former Tawi-Tawi Rep. Nur Jaafar who has been designated to manage the crisis of the deportees.

Four processing centers have been established in Tawi-Tawi manned by social workers, inter-agency members and volunteers. The centers are in Barangays Pag-asa, Kasulutan, Suangkagang and Pahut.

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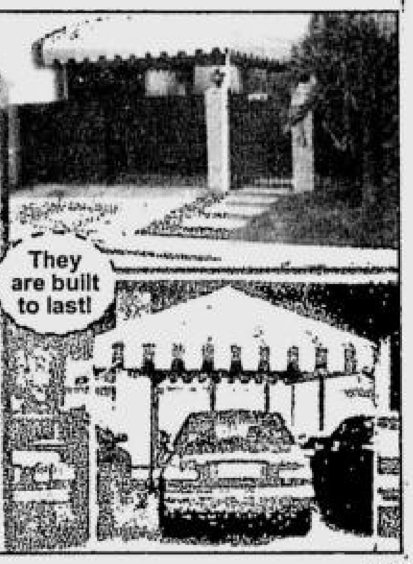

Imee: Leave 'illegals' out of Sabah tiff

BAGUIO CITY—Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos warned both the Philippine and Malaysian authorities from using the fate of 64,000 ousted Filipinos as leverage in vying for Sabah.

The Philippine claim to Sabah was actively pursued during the administration of her father, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

"The (plight) of Filipino (deportees) cannot be treated as a bargaining chip in the negotiation for Sabah," Marcos told the INQUIRER, after she addressed the 93rd Baguio charter day anniversary program here Sunday.

Last week, Philippine and Malaysian government officials traded barbs over Sabah, after the deportation of Filipinos and Indonesians from Malaysia had been linked to the disputed island.

Marcos acknowledged that Malaysia's softening stand this weekend was an indication that the Sabah issue had political resonance in that country.

Malaysia suspended its deportation procedures amid an outcry from the Philippines and Indonesia over the maltreatment of deportees.

"(But) no one can prevent us from harboring irredentist feelings and our conviction that Sabah belongs to the Philippines, and that we were robbed," Marcos said.

By irredentist, Marcos referred to the country's stake in annexing Sabah whose population and ethnic background share the cultures of Mindanao.

But Marcos said the Philippines should level its Sabah stake before an international tribunal and not just before the international press.

"The adequate forum is still an international court of justice," she said.

"We must maintain our diplomatic relations with Malaysia. They have been good friends in the past," she said. "We have spoken to the Malaysian ambassador himself. They have been very, very clear that they are seeking ways to redress and improve the situation."

Marcos said diplomats from both countries have started discussing definitions for cross-border migration. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

17 prisoners bolt Davao jail

DAVAO CITY—Seventeen prisoners bolted the Tagum City Jail on Sunday afternoon.

But four of the escapees were captured in a pursuit operation by police operatives.

Supt. Anselmo Pinili, acting Davao del Norte police director, said the incident occurred at 12:30 p.m. while there were more than 40 visitors at the detention center.

He said the prisoners disarmed the lone jail officer, JO1 Glen Maranon, and hit him in the head with a rock. Pinili said Maranon's .38 caliber revolver was left by the escapees when they found it was damaged.

There are 200 inmates at the detention center.

Elements of the Police's Regional Mobile Group and Tagum City Police Office immediately conducted pursuit operations against the escapees and arrested four of them, namely Armando Calanday, Joel Taquio and brothers Ludivico and Rolando Orsal, Pinili said.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Diwalwal folk asked to return to their homes

By Joel B. Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development has allocated P5,000 to each miner's family in gold-rich Diwalwal in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, who are willing to set up their own business and return to their homes.

Mercedita Habagat, DSWD director for Southern Mindanao, said most of the 16,100 individuals who remained in Diwalwal came from the Davao del Norte, Agusan and Davao Oriental and even as far as Davao del Sur and Davao City.

She said most of the miners were trying their luck in gold mining since they have no jobs in their areas.

"We are really counseling them that there's nothing for them there, they have to return home and we promise to monitor their progress," she said.

She said the DSWD and the Task Force Diwalwal will train the miners and give them livelihood. The miners used to be farmers and fishers, but have no money to start their own business.

Habagat added that they will teach the miners on businesses that are related to farming and fishing.

But she said thousands of families still refused to leave the area.

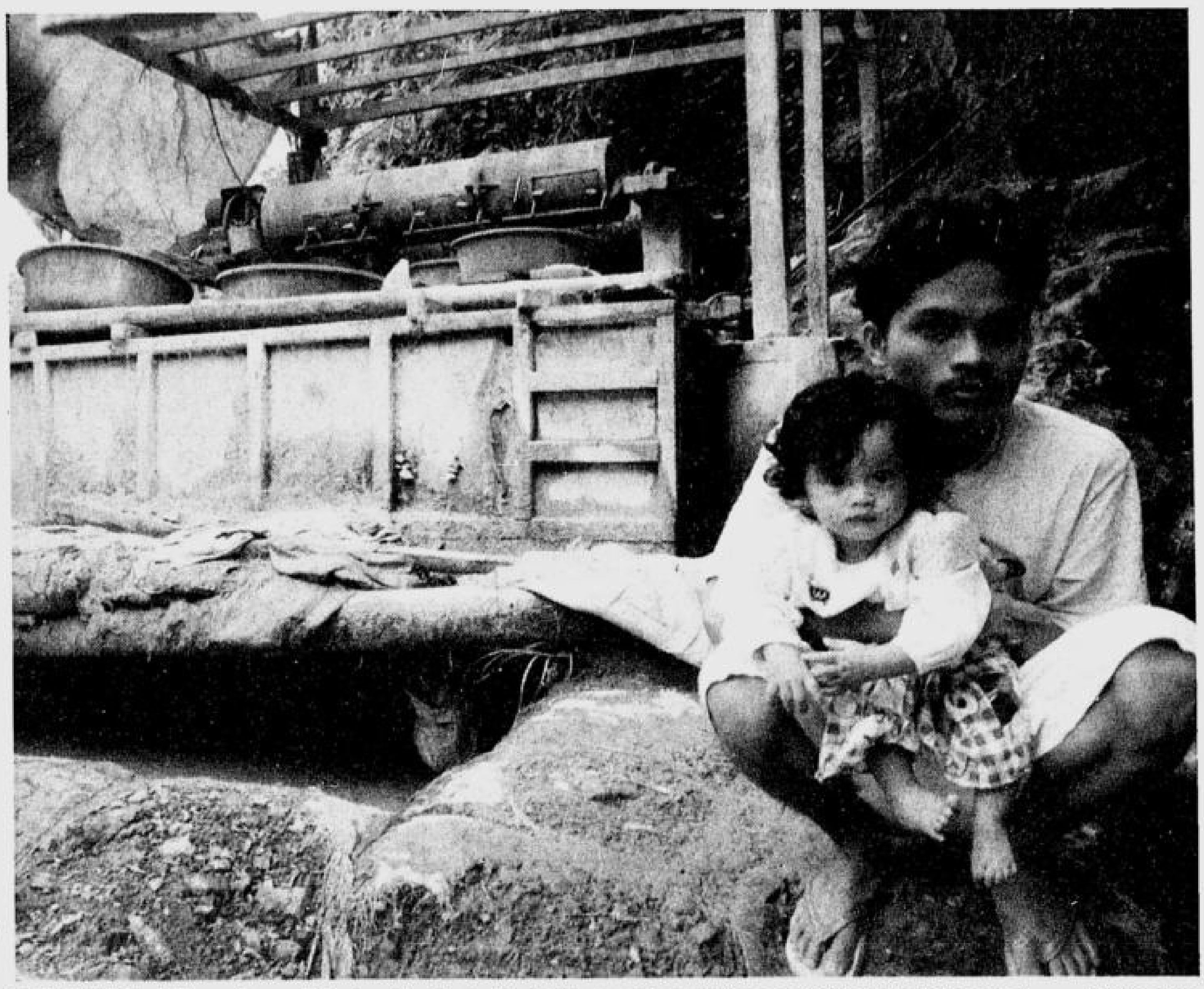
Task Force Diwalwal has put up a health desk in the area and other towns which will receive donations such as old clothes, food, and medicines for the displaced workers.

The DSWD had distributed 500 sacks of rice for the families but the supply is expected to last only for a week.

To ensure that there will be no exodus of families from neighboring areas to Diwalwal to avail of the free provisions, the police were instructed to ban anybody from going up the mountains.

She added that the municipal government and barangay leaders have prepared a list of legitimate small-scale miners in the area who can avail of the government provisions.

Mining operations in Diwalwal were ordered stopped by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez following reports of violent incidents and environmental degradation.



THE FUTURE of this worker and his daughter looks dim in this area where mining operations have been ceased. EDWIN BACASMAS

Last week, the DENR signed permits to operate for the 18 small miners cooperatives to operate in Diwalwal.

The Environmental Management Bureau has been tasked to assess the extent of pollution in the area and identify the legitimate small-scale miners to "rationalize" the mining operations and pave the way for the resumption of the operations on Nov. 11.

Troop deployment

The Philippine National Police is sending more than 300 troops fresh from scout training to secure Diwalwal while the moratorium on gold mining operations is on.

Senior Supt. Isidro Lapeña, regional police chief, said they made sure the troops were not connected with the police office in Compostela Valley. "This is to avoid perceptions that the police is taking sides on the issue. We want to keep them as neutral as possible," he said.

There are 209 troops in Diwalwal from PNP Southern Mindanao and Caraga Region commands, and 100 more are coming from Northern Mindanao. They comprise the Task Force Diwalwal which replaced Task Force Monkayo which was known to be "too friendly" with the miners.

"They were instructed not to receive anything from the miners or the firms and all their needs will be provided by the PNP," he said.

Alvarez earlier committed to allocate P25 million out of the national government's coffers as stipend on a per diem basis for the police securing the area.

Fish culture moratorium in Bolinao

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—The local government started demolishing the remaining fish pens in the Kakiputan Channel on Monday, signaling the moratorium on aquaculture operations in the town.

This coastal town's aquaculture industry was hit by a massive fish kill last February that resulted in the loss of P400 million worth of milkfish, which floated dead because of pollution.

Even the wild

Several fish kills followed, affecting not only the cultured *bangus* but those in the wild such as *malaga*, *sapsap* (slipmouth) and *bolasi* (mullet).

Mayor Jesus Celeste said the moratorium will be implemented for at least five months to give the town's waters a chance to recover from pollution.

It will be "lifted after all the necessary measures for sustainable aquaculture are already in place," he said.

More pollutive

Celeste said they demolished fish pens which, aside from occupying bigger areas, had been found to be more pollutive than the fish cages.

Brunner Carranza, municipal planning coordinator, said the establishment of pens will be discouraged because these are built in shallow waters and deprive fishermen of their fishing grounds.

He said the pens' nets reach the seabed and obstruct water flow. "It is also difficult to remove debris inside the pens," Carranza said.

Dismantled

Celeste said empty pens and cages will be dismantled first while those with fish stocks will be destroyed when the fish stocks are harvested.

"We cannot demolish them at the same time anyway, so we are giving them (fish pen operators) a little time to harvest," he said.

The municipal government and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources actually started the demolition of illegal fish pens on June 1.

Demolition

However, some operators continued to stock their cages and pens and because the municipal waters had not fully recovered yet, periodic fish kills occurred.

Many operators were forced to transfer to other towns such as Anda and Lingayen towns and in Zambales to avoid the moratorium, reports said.

Celeste, who led the demolition team, said about 300 pens remain in Bolinao's waters.

Mining firm allays fear of disaster

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—No event of disaster proportions would affect this town and four other Zambales towns even if a mine tailings dam of the abandoned Dizon Copper and Silver Mines Inc. (DCSMI) collapses, an official of the firm assured on Saturday.

Engineer Jaime Tongol, chief of the DCSMI maintenance team, also allayed fears of disaster even as two damaged dam spillways continued to leak out mine wastes and water.

Tongol said the mine wastes and water spilling from the Bayarong tailings dam and the Camalca silt dam are not laden with mercury.

He said Bayarong, DCSMI's main dam, confines the mine tailings and serves as a reservoir of recycled water for the milling process.

Located east of Barangay Buhawen here, the Bayarong Dam is naturally enclosed on the east by the hills of Mt. Bayarong. The dike's southwest side is made up of silt and clay extracted from the open pit Kaline mine.

Less than 40 hectares in size and rising 248 meters above sea level, this dam holds 9.5 million cubic meters of water.

The Camalca Dam, located southeast of Buhawen, stores the silt and rocks from the open pit mine. Like Bayarong, the dikes of Camalca are made up of silt and clay.

Tongol said waters flowing to these dams from the tributaries of the watersheds of Mt. Pinatubo, some 10 kilometers northeast of Buhawen, drain to the Mapanuepe Lake below the village.

He said these dams continue to be maintained even after the DCSMI had stopped operating in 1997.

Heavy rains damaged the spillways of these dams last July, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Tongol said the DCSMI and its partner, Benguet Corp., had found no use for mercury since the joint venture shipped out and processed its gold ore to Kobe, Japan.

For the milling, the DCSMI used sulfite and potassium whose acidity was neutralized by lime, he said.

"Our company did not add mercury to the environment," he said.

Tongol, citing results of regular medical tests, said no incidents of mercury poisoning occurred among mine workers and residents of Buhawen here during the company's 22 years of operations.

Allaying fears of a catastrophe, he said the dams would not likely breach because both structures were adequately compacted, their outlying areas lined with trees and their materials earthquake-resistant.

"We did not use concrete because the area is earthquake-prone," he said.

Tongol said it would "take 1,000 days of continuous rains to cause these dams to collapse," citing the assessment of the environmental consulting firm Woodward Clyde done on the structures.

The Mapanuepe Lake, which formed after Mt. Pinatubo's lahar choked the Mapanuepe River, appeared to be the single saving factor of the DCSMI and Buhawen residents.

The flood and lahar rampages that it would trigger would not likely happen in San Marcelino, Castillejos, San Antonio, San Narciso and San Felipe because the lake, with a catchment area of 1,000 hectares, would be enough to hold the escaping 9.5 million cubic meters of water from Bayarong, Tongol said.

Should this volume spill out in one breaching event, he said the water at the lake would likely rise by one meter.

Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, a marine geologist and a native of Zambales, also ruled out immediate danger for the five towns.

He said the 9.5 million cubic meters of water, which can also be produced by two days of rains, were a fraction of the 69 million cubic meters of waters that Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake released during last July's heavy rains.

However, Rodolfo warned of tidal surges in case the dams suddenly burst. The lake, he noted, is not low enough now to take in the lahar that can be triggered by the strong tides of escaping water. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Surigao town residents block Manila firm

PLACER, Surigao del Norte—Residents of Barangay Anislagan here continued their prolonged protest against the impending copper and gold exploration by the Manila Mining Corporation (MMC).

Residents on Saturday prevented the entry of heavy equipment owned by Diamond Drilling Corporation of the Philippines (DDCPI), a drilling contractor hired by MMC for its exploration activities.

Anislagan residents started their protest against MMC's entry into their village after the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) granted exploration permit to the mining company.

"They have skipped the process of consulting the community and we don't know why the DENR-MGB issued them a permit. That's why we have to safeguard our barangay from any damages, which could arise from the exploration," Anislagan Barangay captain Estella Udtohan said.

Udtohan said MMC's imminent exploration activities have sowed fear among the locals because the intended area sits atop a seismic fault, near an active volcano and within their source of water.

The municipal council of Placer has recently called on the MMC to defer its exploration activities.

The council urged the mining company to address the concerns raised by the protesting residents.

But a defiant MMC, armed with a 20-day temporary restraining order issued by a Parañaque court, continued with the deployment of equipment needed for the exploration.

The protesters managed to block the effort on Saturday. "What they are doing is illegal, they do not even have a mayor's permit," Vernie Reyes, DDCPI's chief of Community Relations, said of the protest.

Reyes also denied allegations that MMC skipped some procedures in obtaining the exploration permit.

"Social acceptability is not a requisite for an exploration permit. We only presented our project and the previous barangay captain had signed a proof of presentation. We have also (entered into) contracts with landowners on condition that we will only get samples," he said.

Reyes' statement was supported by the MGB in Caraga Region. "The proof of presentation is enough since the Mining Act of 1995 does not require social acceptability for explorations only. So legally speaking, they have the right to explore the area," Genevieve Chua, MGB information officer, said.

Garry Ferguson, MMC vice president for operation, said their area of exploration was not within a seismic fault as the protesters have continuously alleged.

"There should be no concern on the seismic fault because it lies 10 kilometer to the west of Anislagan. As far as our research is concerned, we do not know of any active volcano within our exploration area," Ferguson said.

He also assured residents that the exploration activities will not endanger their water source because MMC would be using biodegradable chemicals.

Besides, Ferguson said they will only extract samples and that there will be no large-scale excavation.

Despite MMC's assurance, militant groups said they will launch more protests as the 1st Mindanao Mining Summit draws near.

The mining summit, which was set on August 30, aims to promote Surigao del Norte as the country's mining capital. *Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

RHB owns killings

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The communist armed group Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB) has claimed responsibility for the killing of eight men in Zambales from March to May this year. The human rights group Karapatan and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan earlier asked Zambales officials to help them seek justice for the death of the eight men whom they said were farmers. In a statement, the RHB said the killings were "punishments for (the men's) anti-people and anti-revolutionary activities and records." ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Extraordinary cop

OLONGAPO CITY—A policeman here rejected a P10,000-bribe offered by the wife of an illegal drug suspect on Aug. 25. The policeman, PO2 Alejandro Quinit Jr., instead arrested Teresita Cagang, 41, of Barangay Old Cabalan here. Reports said Cagang offered the money to Quinit in exchange for the release of her husband, Rodolfo, who was arrested in an operation. She, however, posted bail for the bribery charge filed against her by the police. Police seized from Rodolfo 20 milligrams of shabu, the P200 marked money used by them to entrap him and a gun. Chief Insp. Eden Ugale, the city's chief intelligence and investigation officer, also arrested SPO1 Oscar Imperial, a former Narcotics Command agent, during a buy-bust operation here on Aug. 23. ***Allan Macatuno and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Chinese-Pinay killed

DAGUPAN CITY—A 34-year-old Chinese-Filipino woman was stabbed and killed on Wednesday last week by four men in Mayombo District here. Police said Jeanette Ong, of Marikina City and branch manager of family-owned MGM Glass and Aluminum Supply, was stabbed several times in the neck. She died on the spot. Responding policemen arrested three men, including two who were caught while running out of the MGM building. Suspects Ryan Manganti, 18, and Ramil Paragas, 20, both of Urdaneta City, identified their two companions, Brendo Duad and Edgardo de la Fuente. Duad was arrested in a follow-up operation. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Pinatubo inspected

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A team of government engineers went up to Mt. Pinatubo on Monday last week to assess if the volcano's crater-lake still needs engineering intervention to protect some 40,000 residents of Botolan, Zambales, from possible lahar rampage. The Department of Public Works and Highways team led by Eduardo Bautista, began the climb through Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac. The DPWH-Mount Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office tasked Bautista's group with measuring the length and width of the artificial canal, the level of the water from the canal's rim and the speed of the water flow. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Recall resolution

SANTIAGO CITY—At least 174 village leaders approved the recall resolution against Vice Mayor Clarito Manubay despite objections due to procedural flaws during the preparatory recall assembly here on Aug. 26. The village officials cited "loss of confidence" in Manubay. But Hilario Apellido, Divisoria village chair, said the recall assembly turned into a "marathon gathering" without discussing the merits of the draft resolution seeking to recall Manubay. Of the 333 village chairs and councilors in the city, 182 attended the assembly. The Commission on Elections has 30 days to post the recall petition and verify the signatures. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Farm model

PILI, Camarines Sur—The government of Camarines Sur has launched an agro-industrial farm model project inside the 118-hectare capitol complex to demonstrate farm practices that will make farmers earn more. The "Agro-industrial Village" demonstrates several models of "sustainable farming strategy" in a 25-hectare complex. Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, said the provincial government will show to farmers that they can earn at least P5,000 a month in just a fifth of a hectare. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

BASKETMAKER BING GONZALES

Pedro Pinpena, 52, of Davao City weaves basket out of used plastic strips. He sells his products from P30 to P40 a piece depending on the size.

Bayan Muna claims military behind anti-communist tag

BAGUIO CITY—The first documented evidence that the military was behind a series of campaigns against the party-list group Bayan Muna surfaced in a provincial peace and order council (PPOC) report in the Cordillera, the INQUIRER learned here on Monday.

The July minutes of the Mt. Province PPOC meeting said the Army's 5th Infantry Battalion identified ongoing water and school projects financed by funds from the pork barrel of Bayan Muna representatives as insurgency-related programs.

Bayan Muna lawyers consider this document prima facie evidence in a planned suit against the military for libel and grave threats, said Beverly Longid, executive director of Dinteg Alternative Law Center based here.

Erde Olalia, Bayan Muna legal consultant, said human rights lawyers have been preparing a legal attack against the group's critics, whose series of anti-communist advertisements and posters have linked Bayan Muna to the Abu Sayyaf and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

Both the Abu Sayyaf and the CPP-NPA are listed as foreign terrorist organizations (FTO) by the United States.

Olalia said the posters imply that Bayan Muna and other militant organizations should be rated as "terrorists."

But Maj. Elmer Quiros, AFP civil relations commander for North Luzon, said the military had never designated Bayan Muna as a dissident group.

OCAMPO

"We've always considered Bayan Muna as a legitimate leftist organization which (CPP-NPA founder) Jose Ma. Sison should emulate," he said.

Last week, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo directed Bayan Muna chapters to document evidence of the smear campaign in the provinces to reinforce their expected suits.

The PPOC "counter insurgency" report filed by Maj. Carlito Bueno Jr. of the 22nd Special Forces Command also detailed the "insurgency" operations of Wyndel Bolinget, secretary-general of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance.

Bueno's report said Bolinget and one Jonathan Torafeng had briefed residents of Barangay Mainit in Bontoc, Mt. Province, about Bayan Muna's commitment to fund their P1- million water system project and their elementary school's P1-million drainage system.

Bueno's report indicated that the Bayan Muna projects were dangled in exchange for the community's support for Bayan Muna candidates in the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections last July 15.

"I was not even there. I haven't been to Mainit since 1999," Bolinget said, when he presented copies of the PPOC minutes to reporters.

Mayor Thomas Killip of Sagada, Mt. Province, said he was concerned about the AFP's position on a P5-million allocation from Bayan Muna to finance two municipal roads.

Killip said two 5-km stretches in the Ambasing and Sagada-Dantay routes are listed under the priority development funds of Bayan Muna.

He said the government is waging an "irrational" war against Bayan Muna members "for the mere suspicion that they are communists."

"The all-out war should be directed at poverty. Most rebellions are anchored on that (agenda), whether it is religious or ideological. The bottomline is economics. Actually, the ones who are being called terrorists are the people who want to help our community. At least they know what they are addressing," Killip said. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army commander warns he will shoot militants entering military camp

CEBU CITY—The commanding officer of the 78th Infantry Battalion warned members of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Task Force Detainees of the Philippines-Karapatan (TFD-Karapatan) not to get inside their camp in Sogod town or they would be shot.

"They are our enemies. I won't allow them to get inside (the camp). If they insist, I'll shoot them," Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay told reporters here.

Sumagaysay did not want Bayan and TFD-Karapatan members to talk to the five persons, suspected to be NPA rebels who are now in detention at the 78th IB camp, for security reason.

He claimed that the suspects were "under the manipulation of Bayan and Karapatan that is why they (members of militant groups) are prevented from getting inside the camp."

Sumagaysay denied allegations by the militant groups that the arrests were illegal, claiming that the suspects were about to commit a crime.

He also claimed that the suspects were not tortured as alleged by the militant groups.

Sumagaysay said these militant groups had always accused the military of several offenses since these were created in 1972.

Soldiers from the 78th IB arrested five suspected NPA members in mid-northern towns as a result of an intensified operation following the Sept. 15 ambush conducted by communist rebels that wounded two policemen and a civilian in Barangay Pansoy, Sogod, about 60.5 kilometers north of this city.

The suspects were identified as Elvin Colinares, Noe Molde and Edgar Duran, all farmers from barangay Ginabucan, Catmon town; Nestor Lumbab of Tuburan town, Cebu and Elma Mag-asim, 18.

Colinares and Molde were arrested on Aug. 23 in Barangay Ginabucan, Catmon. Lumbab, on the other hand, was arrested on Aug. 26 after the encounter in Catmon town.

Colinares was invited by members of the 78th IB for questioning on Aug. 29.

Mag-asim was collared on Aug. 28 after she was allegedly caught conducting surveillance operation inside a military detachment in Danao City.

Another farmer Roel Concha was allegedly placed under house arrest for two days by the military on Aug. 23. He had claimed that he was forced to admit his membership with the NPA after the soldiers tortured him.

Sumagaysay said all the five suspected rebels were placed in the custody of the 78th IB but none of them was harmed.

These suspects, he added, will be presented to Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia within the week.

Teresa Alicaba of Bayan Muna said the five were arrested without any warrant and were forced to admit that they were rebels.

She said Sumagaysay's warning would not stop them from investigating further the alleged abuses committed by the military on the suspects.

Alicaba said they have filed separate petitions for habeas corpus on behalf of Lumbab, Colinares, Duran and Molde to force Sumagaysay to produce them.

Separate criminal charges for illegal arrest, arbitrary detention, torture, forced interrogation, harassment, arbitrary search and seizure would be filed against Sumagaysay and his men this week before the Office of the Ombudsman and the Provincial Prosecutor's Office. *Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Farmers blame NFA for rising rice prices

NAGA CITY—A group of farmers has scored the National Food Authority for the continuing rise in the prices of rice here allegedly due to its failure to intervene in the local market.

Silvestre Bonto, spokesperson of the National Confederation of Irrigators Associations (NCIA), said on Sunday that the prevailing trend in the prices of rice has become critical.

Bonto alleged that it is only now that the highest price of NFA rice here has reached P22 a kilo even as there were enough stocks at the NFA warehouses.

He said when enough rice stocks were released at the start of lean months, like in previous years when all the small grains retailers were provided with the required number of sacks and frequency of distribution, the rice prices tend to stabilize.

Bonto said the NFA national office has directed provincial offices to release to authorized grains retailers 60 sacks of rice for closed vans, 47 sacks for open vans and 30 sacks of rice for passenger jeepneys.

He said it has also ordered the release of the required number of sacks of rice on a daily basis, from Monday to Friday, to small grains retailers to arrest monopoly control on the prices of rice.

"It is unfortunate that the farmers suffer from very low prices of palay during the harvest season and in the lean months, when we have to buy rice, we could hardly afford the price," Bonto said.

The NCIA spokesperson claimed that at the start of lean months in August, the NFA provincial office unusually limited the release of rice to small grains retailers in defiance of an administrative order.

Bonto said the limitation imposed by the NFA provincial office has triggered the rise in rice prices here because the environment for price manipulation of big rice millers and traders has set in.

"Effectively, the limited distribution of NFA rice has encouraged the prevailing manipulated prices of rice," he said.

But Nestor Alcantara, NFA Camarines Sur manager, explained that the NFA limited the release of NFA rice to authorized small grains retailers as a result of a monitoring they conducted earlier.

Alcantara said the NFA office here decided to conduct monitoring of the small grains retailers because there were reports that big traders use them to channel rice to their warehouses. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

No bad joke for Benguet farmers

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Farmers in Benguet and Mt. Province were awaiting some disguised blessings after July's furious Typhoon "Gloria" and the non-stop monsoon rains. As in past years, farmers, whose crops survived the typhoon and the rains, had expected a rise in the prices of vegetables.

But farmers were shocked when vegetable prices dropped at a time when there should have been a greater demand for tropical vegetables such as carrots, cabbages, beans and potatoes.

Had somebody in Congress, as one joke went, amended the law of supply and demand?

The problem that hit some 250,000 farmers in Benguet and some parts of neighboring Mt. Province, who supply 80 percent of the country's tropical vegetables, was no joke.

Each of these farmers had invested hundreds of thousands of pesos for chemical fertilizers, chicken dung, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides. They thus expected to at least recover their investments.

Even local traders, who are more fortunate because they don't lift hoes and are not exposed to sunlight, wind and rain unlike the farmers, have complained about the unexpected plunge in vegetable prices.

Local traders have complained about Chinese-Filipino businessmen importing an undetermined volume of carrots, cabbages and potatoes from China and Taiwan, which swamped the Metro Manila markets recently.

Farmers and traders have blamed the vegetable importation for the unexpected plunge of vegetable prices since July.

At the height of Gloria, the price of carrots rose to P125 a kilogram—a "jackpot" price for a few farmers who were able to bring some carrots to the market. The price eventually went down to an average of P25-P27 per kg.

But with imported carrots averaging at P15 per kg, Metro Manila buyers snubbed the fresher but more expensive Benguet carrots.

Pressed by both farmers and local traders to do something about the crisis now plaguing the vegetable industry, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor told farmers and traders in Benguet recently that he would ask the Bureau of Customs and other concerned agencies to look into the "illegal importation" of tropical vegetables.

The Department of Agriculture and other agencies are still in the dark as to how the illegal importation happened. "We really don't know how these illegally imported vegetables came in," Elizabeth Verzola, DA Cordillera director, told the INQUIRER.

The only importation the DA learned about was 3,847 kg or 3.8 metric tons of carrots from Australia, which the Bureau of Plant Industry and the BOC allowed last month for exclusive customers of Rustan's and Tuckerbug Co. The impact of this volume in the local market, Verzola said, was actually nil.

But farmers and local traders worry about how government apparently is helpless, if not inutile, in the face of the alleged illegal importation of tropical vegetables, which led to an estimated P3.5 million in losses for some 107 local traders in more than three weeks between July and August.

Estimated losses for farmers have yet to be reported, but these are expected to run into millions of pesos.

Bad portent

The crisis Igorot farmers are now facing is a bad portent of what happens when the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) finally goes in full swing by 2004.

Experts closely monitoring the agreement's impact on local agriculture in fact suspect that the current importation of tropical vegetables—although limited, according to officials—and the illegal importation or smuggling of others, may just be a preparation for the AoA's full implementation in 2004.

"This (limited importation and alleged smuggling of vegetables) may just be a dry-run for 2004 when the AoA is fully implemented," said Prof. Ruth Sidiogan-Batani of the Benguet State University.

"Many farmers actually have yet to be informed that we have been importing vegetables since after then President Fidel Ramos officially enlisted our country into the WTO and GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) in January 1995," she added

Sidiogan-Batani, who led a team that studied the impact of WTO-GATT on Benguet's potato farming last year, said the government had actually lifted the ban on potato importation shortly after the country officially entered the WTO. Save for potatoes intended for planting, importation of potatoes was banned before 1995.

Developing countries such as the Philippines were given nine years, starting January 1995, to prepare themselves before the AoA gets fully implemented in 2004.

But citing opportunities for developing the country's "global competitiveness," the government under Ramos, Sidiogan-Batani noted, actually preempted the nine-year leeway for the AoA's full implementation.

"Global competitiveness" became an oft-repeated rhetoric under Ramos' government whose medium-term development plan (MTDP) included safety nets, which were supposed to help cushion the effects of global free trade on agriculture.

These safety nets, the government promised then, would come in the form of support to farmers such as irrigation and post-harvest facilities, farm-to-market roads and other infrastructure. These safety nets, the government also said, would help farmers become "globally competitive."

Whether or not the government was able to put in place these safety nets and made a considerable impact on how farmers could prepare themselves for a kind of vegetable trade without borders has yet to be studied, said Sidiogan-Batani.

Market access

The AoA contains among others what is called minimum access rule. For developing countries such as the Philippines, the minimum access obligation means providing import opportunity in 1995 to the extent of 1 percent of the annual average consumption in the base year, i.e. 1986-88, rising uniformly to 2 percent in 1999 and then 4 percent in 2004.

One problem in applying the minimum access rule in the local vegetable industry is the lack of baseline data on the average consumption of Filipinos on carrots, cabbages, potatoes and other vegetables, said Sidiogan-Batani.

A question, she said, is how much is the actual average consumption so the government can really determine and regulate the volume of carrots, potatoes or cabbages and other crops to import.

Without these data, importers can have a good excuse to import more than what is legally allowed, Sidiogan-Batani warned.

Imported vegetables, and other crops for that matter, have a competitive edge—cheaper cost of production because of government subsidies to farmers.

Even if the country imposes high tariffs on imported vegetables, these can still be sold at a cheaper price to the detriment of local products, Sidiogan-Batani said.

She cited farmers who invest an average of P3 for every kilogram of potatoes they produce. In contrast, Chinese farmers spend only 90 centavos for every kilogram of potatoes.

As farmers continue to wrestle with perennial farm problems, they now have to brace themselves with yet another big problem—a totally new vegetable market setup under the WTO, under which only the world's giants have the cutting edge.

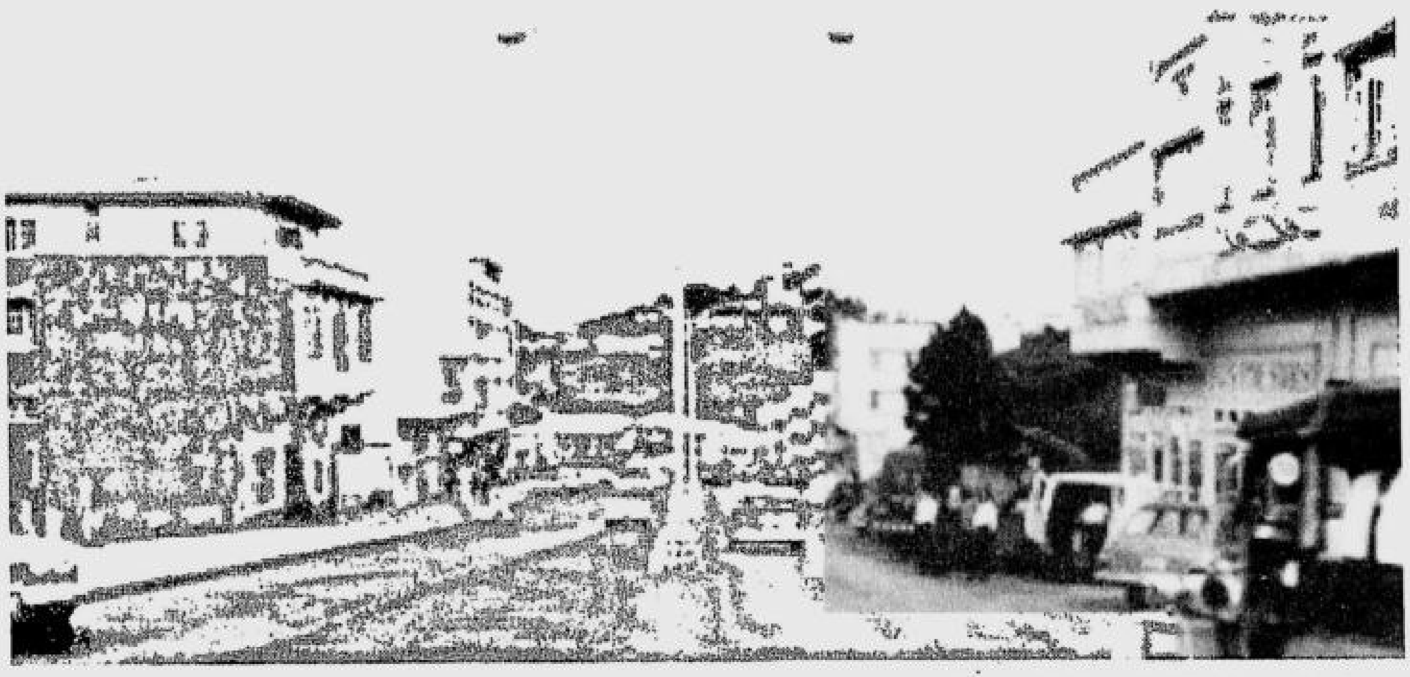
LOCAL vegetables are in peril under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. TOOTS SOBERANO

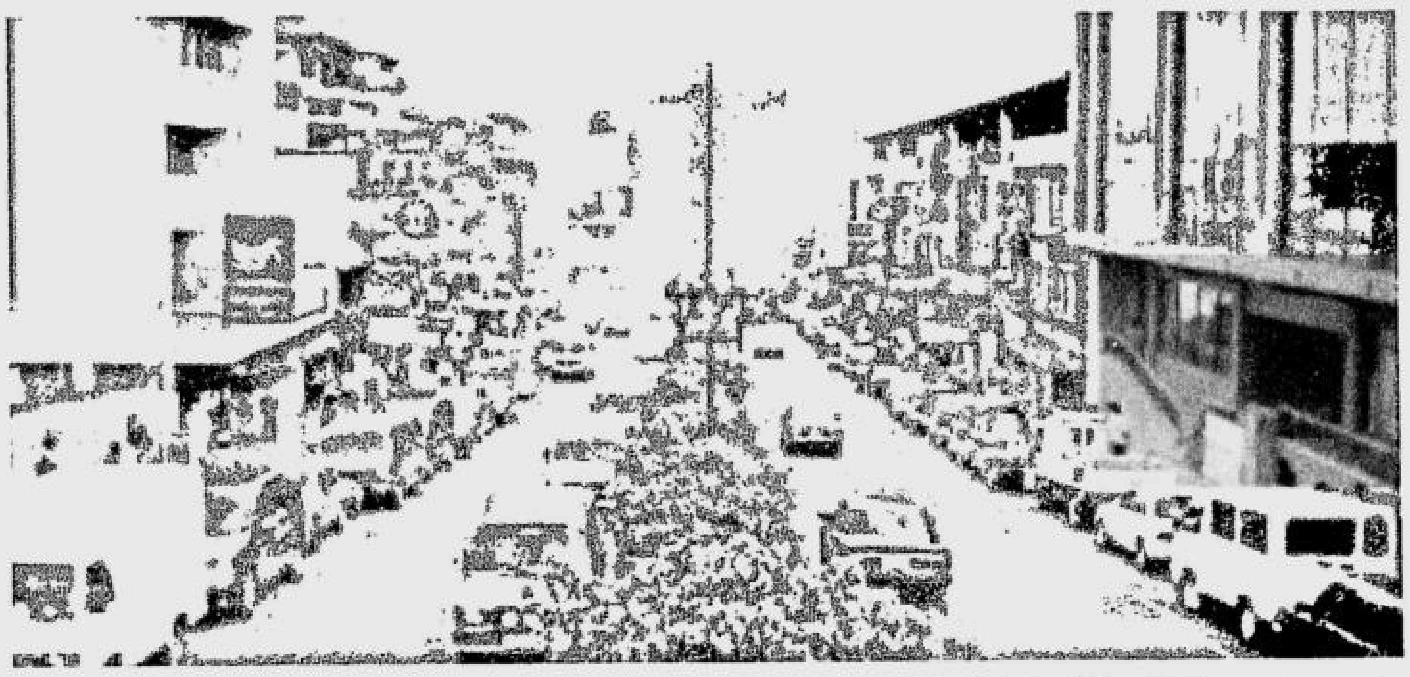
INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ❁ Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Baguio bids to become US heritage city

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

AN 85-year-old former mayor of Baguio hiked through the city's old and forgotten travel haunts recently to remember why America loved her 93-year-old place.


BAGUIO 1964. Photographed from the top of Session Road, this view shows D&S Fine Foods, Old Pagoda, Skyview and an ice cream parlor. In the background is Hilltop market. City population then was 50,450. PRIVATE COLLECTION


BAGUIO 2002. Today, stores and restaurants occupy spaces on both sides of Session Road. The city has a permanent population of over 260,000 with a semi-permanent student community and a floating population that exceeds 125,000. OMPONG TAN

Virginia de Guia, also a former actress who used the screen name "Linda Leynes" and was once paired with Rogelio de la Rosa in the 1938 movie, "*Nagkaisang Landas* (Single Route)," had been depressed about the city's state of rut.

Designed and built by the American colonial government at the turn of the 20th century, Baguio celebrated its 93rd charter anniversary last Sunday.

The city landscape has changed in a span of only 50 years; its American architecture has given way to commercial malls and gigantic billboards mounted with smiling American models. The city government has proposed a pedestrian skyway that will conceal a section of the downtown area.

De Guia's trek took her from Burnham Park to Mines View Park, and eventually to Camp John Hay, where pine trees still stand but historic buildings torn down for a development project.

These time-honored destinations will soon be studied by the National Historical Institute (NHI) to recognize Baguio's claim as the only American heritage city of the Far East, De Guia said.

American vestiges

Since 1992, De Guia and a group of city old-timers called "Team Baguio" have written to three presidents and several government agencies seeking a law or an executive order that will force the preservation of "the remaining vestiges of America in Baguio."

According to De Guia, the city merits this kind of protection because no other city "truly carried the mantle of the US government when they guided the Philippines."

"Americans created the (Kennon Road) to connect the mountains to Manila. Americans created the city of 30,000 people in 1909 as an image of America (in the period when the colonial government was trying to fight down Filipino hostility). Americans declared Baguio as the Summer Capital of the Philippines, and (the American colonial government) held court in Baguio (whenever the second Philippine Assembly, which was the legislature, met here)," she said.

But the Ibalois, whose ancestors lived in Baguio before the US colonial government settled, want a deeper evaluation of the US legacy.

The United States had resolved to build a colonial government town in Baguio to "escape the Manila heat," complete with an educational center (now the Teachers' Camp), a stone market and a manmade lake in Burnham, according to historical accounts.

"But only two houses were recorded when (an American fact-finding mission led by Dean Worcester) first set foot on the misty cold mountain that became Baguio. One was owned by (German chronicler) Otto Scheerer, (whose journals led the Americans to Baguio in the first place). The other house was owned by (Ibaloi herdsman) Mateo Carino," De Guia said.

FORMER Baguio mayor Virginia de Guia. VINCENT CABREZA

This point alone, said Ibaloi historian Eufronio Pungayan, should tell the present generation that the Ibalois were as much responsible for the birth of Baguio as the Americans.

In that regard, America's century-old campaign to win the Filipinos' hearts and minds is now being waged in the country's summer capital, Pungayan noted.

A research group pointed out in a June report to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) that the US fact-finding team discovered pasturelands and horses in Baguio before 1909.

In a span of 20 years, the pastureland owners were herded toward the outskirts by a new land distribution system applied by the Americans, the report said.

American intervention

But not before the bustling economy of the Ibalois helped perk up the fledgling city, Pungayan said.

"The Ibalois were into small-scale mining and cattle raising, and were very good traders at the time Baguio was growing. But few historians write about that. (Present-day) Ibalois would rather have historians look into this aspect of Baguio's development because few of our generation want Americans to get all the credit. Some of us feel they did more bad than good, because they were really here to start mining," he said.

The oldest Philippine mines were established in Baguio and in nearby Itogon, Benguet, by American investors, after a US prospector set up Benguet Corp. in 1906.

Ibaloi activists were up in arms recently over pollution brought about by mining operations. They also joined a national outcry against "American intervention in Philippine affairs."

But no one will argue America's influence on Baguio.

Nowadays, tourists almost always go to the Wright Park, where cowboy-garbed youths rent out their horses for an hour's trot through the forested South Drive, or along the roads leading to the presidential Mansion and the Mines View Park.

Pungayan said the cowboy emblems were mere translations of the Ibalois' pastureland period.

"We had our own culture and we had our own cattle and horse economy. We also had the same prairie elements common to the American frontier, so the cowboy trappings are just that," he said.

But De Guia said she was more fascinated by the Americans' vision of a "mountain utopia," rather than America's relationship with the city's original inhabitants.

"I hold certain American officials (during 1909) in high esteem. I regard (former Philippine Governor General) Cameron Forbes well for starting the heavy marketing that drew people to Baguio. Anything you see in Baguio was Forbes' handiwork," she said.

The marketing was critical because the US government had considered the Baguio and Kennon Road projects "scandalous" due to their high cost of construction, said Benny Alhambra, city tourism officer.

It was the scandal that prompted the Philippine Assembly to declare Baguio as the "Summer Capital" to rationalize the development of the city, he said.

"We are scheduled to commemorate the centennial year of this declaration in 2003, to reinforce the city's true tourism roots," Alhambra said.

First exposition

De Guia had used the same rationale after World War II. With Baguio shattered by the carpet bombing operations of US forces during the Liberation period, De Guia, then a vice mayor, persuaded businesses and the city government to hold the country's first Exposition and Carnival to "bring Baguio back on the international map."

Elephants, lions, carnival queens and jugglers of the world-renowned Kamala Circus of India, as well as half-naked tattooed performers from Benguet, Mt. Province and Kalinga, trooped down Session Road—the site of the first meeting of the Second Philippine Assembly.

The circus had to navigate through Kennon. One account related how elephants were herded up the zigzag route "like Hannibal riding elephants up the Alps," when the truck that was ferrying them broke.

The event was formally opened by then President Elpidio Quirino, and earned for the city a beneficial P700,000 which was used for city projects.

"That event taught me the value of Baguio to the world. We always wanted these kinds of stories to be told. We wanted everyone to give us their stories about how much they loved Baguio, and how much they remembered an American-built Baguio," De Guia said. *With a report from Ikin Salvador*

A 1-2 romp for Baguio in Palanca Awards

IN A fitting tribute to Baguio's 93rd founding anniversary on Sept. 1, two high school students from the city topped the Palanca literary awards for *kabataan* (youth) essay.

The 1-2 finish came from Enrico Miguel Subido, an 11th grader at the Brent School, and Monica Macansantos, a senior at the Baguio City National High School's science class. The 2002 Palanca literary awards were presented in ceremonies on Sept. 1 at the Manila Peninsula.

Subido might make it to the Palanca Hall of Fame for winning five first prizes. He just had a three-peat in the youth essay category, the latest being his work titled "Waging War for Humanity: The Battle for Peace."

Just to show how peaceful he is, Subido, when asked which popular boy band he was ready to massacre, said: "Their music is really annoying, but that's no reason for me to kill someone. I can criticize them by saying their music sucks and that they're mere poster boys."

Macansantos, 15, a rock enthusiast, wrote the second-prize winner, "My Brush With Eugenics," which dealt with her own theory of evolution and why people "who must be destroyed" just won't understand the facts of life.

"I wasn't out to kill people. I was just (frustrated by) people who never get to understand anything," she said to explain her essay.

Macansantos used the pen name "Grungeta Rajas," the ugliest name she could think up to "draw the most attention." It played with her recent affections for grunge rock and the name of a controversial impeachment trial witness in 2000, who turned out to be a "*katulong* (maid)."

Subido, an unopposed student council president, used the pen name "Jiminy Gandhi Hendrix." According to his sister Grace, a University of the Philippines College Baguio instructor, Subido's hair is as long and wavy as Jimi Hendrix's.

She said Brent officials had threatened to kick him out if he didn't cut his hair soon.

Last year, Subido chose the pen name "Curious George Clooney" and the year before, "Miguelanxo Suave." Miguelanxo is an illustrator of the Heavy Metal Graphic Magazine, while Suave is from Laura Esquivel, the Mexican author of "Like Water for Chocolate."

SUBIDO (left) and Macansantos. EV ESPIRITU

Their backgrounds describe an unconventionally intelligent childhood.

Macansantos said she was thoroughly embroiled in author Henry James in Grade 5 after scaring herself with his novelette, "Turn of the Screw," which she discovered from the collection of her father, poet and also Palanca awardee Francis Macansantos.

She now shuffles her attention between Dostoyevsky and Camus and heavy rock bands like Korn and Rage Against the Machine.

Her mother, mathematician Priscilla Supnet, dean of the UP College Baguio, contributes "her math" to Monica's series of poems.

Admitting that she was a little hard on people, Macansantos said she was the least popular teenager in school because only a few get her wicked sense of humor.

The more extroverted Subido said he liked Dr. Seuss books, as well as John Irving's "World According to Garp."

He idolizes older brother Paulo because he wants to be Batman, and finds Superman "the role model of big, dumb egotistical jocks."

As of now, Subido has no plan to leave Baguio for more cosmopolitan haunts. "No way. We have a bond." *Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu*

Defensor named AFP chief of staff today

FVrom page A1

would give the next AFP chief of staff a fixed term.

Palace sources have said the President may likely designate Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor to replace AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu, even though Defensor is set to retire on Sept. 12.

"The appointment or replacement of the chief of staff is the prerogative of the President as the commander in chief of all armed forces," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, AFP spokesperson, said that the military would respect the President's choice—whoever it will be. "Any decision by the President will be respected by the AFP," he said, as he dismissed the complaints against Defensor raised by some officers.

But Biazon's concern mirrored those of the younger officers. He lambasted what he called "militics" (military politics) and its destabilizing effects on the armed services.

"This situation highly politicizes the position of the chief of staff," Biazon said.

Mandating a fixed term, he said, would ensure that "militics or political maneuverings of generals vying for the position will be minimized and shield the AFP from constant political maneuvering every time the chief of staff is replaced."

Senate bill

Under Senate Bill No. 2114, authored by Biazon, the AFP chief of staff would have a fixed term of three years and the Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs a term of two years, "provided that he shall not have reached the compulsory retirement age at the time of his appointment to office."

Biazon, who served as AFP chief of staff for three months—from Jan. 22 to April 11, 1991, said with fixed terms, officers "will be more inclined to perform better, free from patronage and hopefully (this will) result (in) a more professional and stable relationship in the military organization."

"We will also benefit more from the expertise of the most senior officers of the AFP," he added.

Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, explained that the "basic function of the AFP chief of staff is the formulation of long-term policies, programs and strategies relative to national security concerns of the country."

"This cannot be done if the 'revolving door' policy in the appointment of the chief of staff continues to prevail where the AFP chief serves for only a few months or possibly even just a few days and end up instead micro-managing the AFP operations," Biazon said.

The President is reportedly choosing Cimatu's replacement from a short list topped by Defensor. The PAF chief, the younger brother of former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, is a member of PMA Class '69.

Other candidates include Navy Flag-Officer-in-Command Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina and Army chief Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago.

Hingco, the only non-PMAer in the group, is considered the most senior, having been commissioned in 1968.

Camiling is a member of PMA Class '69 while Abaya graduated from the US Military Academy in West Point in 1971. Santiago and Carolina are members of PMA Class '70.

The President had earlier announced that the turnover of command will be on Sept. 10.

Critics' charges

Critics both inside and outside the military have charged that Defensor's appointment will not only further politicize the AFP but will also do no good to the AFP because Defensor is due to retire on Sept. 12.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a former Army colonel, had said the military needed a chief of staff with a longer term, to preside over the much-delayed modernization program.

Some officers have opposed Defensor's nomination for precisely this reason. Others said that an extension would mean that many officers would continue to remain "stagnating" in their posts.

But an officer yesterday said that what galled him most was that some of the contenders had actively pursued the post.

"I think this is the first time that this happened," the officer said.

But Purificacion belittled the reported restiveness in the ranks.

"That is not (the sentiment) of the entire AFP . . . Any decision will be respected by the AFP," he added, referring to the gripes.

In Malacañang, Bunye said that President Macapagal had consulted "other parties with experience with the Armed Forces and we are sure that her choice has enough capability and experience."

Defensor's possible appointment has been viewed in some quarters as an attempt to draw Sen. Defensor-Santiago, a staunch ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, into the administration's fold.

But her husband, former Interior Undersecretary Narciso Santiago, made short work of that bit of speculation. He said yesterday that while the former senator would be proud to see her brother appointed AFP chief of staff, the appointment itself will have no effect on her political inclinations.

"The appointment of General Defensor has nothing to do with the political life of Miriam," Santiago said in a phone interview.

The ex-senator is currently on a tour of Beijing University. ***With a report from Juliet Javellana***

'He behaved like spoiled brat'

From page A1

Jose Miguel Arroyo supposedly underwent the same security check at the same airport, but did not raise any protest.

The INQUIRER learned from a San Francisco International Airport female employee last night that Mr. Arroyo passed through the airport on Monday night (Tuesday morning, Manila time) en route to Manila.

"He was subjected to the same inspection but he was polite about it," the female employee, who asked not to be identified, said.

Asked if Mr. Arroyo was also asked to remove his shoes, the employee replied: "Yes."

"He even thanked us afterward," she said.

She said airport employees had addressed Mr. Arroyo as "Sir," but did not accord him any other special treatment.

Two Malacañang sources confirmed that Mr. Arroyo passed through the San Francisco airport on Monday night but could not verify if the employee's story was correct.

The American security employee who witnessed Drilon's behavior at the airport on Saturday said Drilon was "arrogant, immature and his behavior was so unbecoming of a Senate President."

"He behaved like a spoiled child," said the security employee, who was reached by telephone in San Francisco last night. He asked the INQUIRER to withhold his name.

He said Drilon was randomly picked by an agent to undergo a security check.

The screener, he said, was a Filipino-American in his early 20s "who didn't know who (Drilon) was and so treated him like any other regular passenger."

The screener, he said, was born in America.

The employee explained that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) required airports to conduct continuous checks on passengers. Screeners can randomly pick out those who must undergo such checks.

"(Drilon) was irritated by it, but that's too bad because that's the regulation set by the TSA," the American employee said.

He said former Vice President Al Gore was asked to undergo the same airport check twice in the United States. "And he complied, he didn't complain."

Upset

Yesterday, Drilon said he had told the screener that he was on an official business to the United States and that he was holding a diplomatic passport. But the screener insisted that he remove his shoes. Drilon took them off and banged them on the table used for inspection.

Drilon said he was upset at the screener and asked if he was a Filipino.

He said the screener curtly replied, "No, I'm not a Filipino. *Ang yabang nito* (This one's arrogant)."

Drilon said he replied: "*Hindi ako mayabang!* (I am not arrogant!)"

According to the American airport employee interviewed by the INQUIRER, Drilon even asked the screener: "Do you know who I am?"

Asked if Drilon was speaking in a loud voice, the American said: "Yeah, and he was cussing. He was saying s**t."

"The kid was professional enough to go along with that," he said.

The Filipino-American screener, he said, was just complying with what the TSA had required him to do. US airports started random shoe inspections following the discovery of a bomb in the shoes of a passenger aboard a Paris-Boston flight several months ago.

Drilon said he later protested to the airport supervisor and asked for the name of the screener. He said the supervisor refused to give the screener's name.

The American airport employee said the screener's supervisor, an American woman, even told Drilon: "You can have my name but not the name of my agent."

No prior arrangement

If Drilon wanted to receive the special treatment given to diplomats, the airport employee said, he should have made prior arrangements with the Philippine Consulate. The consulate would then have contacted the police, airport and airline people and an escort would have been provided Drilon. This would have exempted him from the usual security checks.

"But he came through the checkpoints just like a regular passenger and as such he was subjected to rules and regulations at the airport," the employee said.

"The Filipinos here (at the airport) didn't like what he did," he added.

Drilon, during the Bulung-Pulungan forum yesterday, said that while he recognized the right of every country to impose its own rules to prevent terrorist activities, courtesy should be extended to holders of diplomatic passports.

"When someone with a diplomatic passport is before you, identifying himself as an official of the Republic of the Philippines and showing a diplomatic passport, I would like to think that ordinary rules of courtesy apply," Drilon said.

"I would like to think that you should not consider the president of the Senate of the Republic of the Philippines as a terrorist. I would suspect that they would recognize me," he stressed.

The Vienna Convention on diplomatic practices ensures appropriate courtesies to holders of diplomatic passports or to diplomatic agents.

Ricciardone's shoes

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, wanted Foreign Secretary Blas Ople to lodge a diplomatic protest with the US Embassy in Manila and to demand an apology from US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

"If the US refuses to apologize or take note of this, then maybe we should also require Ambassador Ricciardone to remove his shoes whenever he's at the airport," he said.

Asked if he would press for an apology from the US Embassy, Drilon said: "I would just ask that appropriate courtesies be extended (to us) in the same manner that we extend appropriate courtesies to the (American) ambassador. I don't think we require the ambassador to remove his shoes."

The American airport employee said it would be best if Drilon lodged a diplomatic protest so the incident could be investigated by the authorities.

"Then he'd be exposed even further," he said. "It will blow up in his face."

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said demanding an apology from the US ambassador would be too much.

She said that she, too, was also made to remove her shoes at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila in March when she left for New York.

"What happened to me at the Naia was worse," Legarda said. "They asked me to remove my shoes and I did. *Kinakapkapan pa ako* (They even frisked me)."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona said that even Foreign Undersecretary Melvin Magallona was made to take off his shoes at an airport in Hawaii.

"I think security (precautions) are understandable, but there should also be respect accorded to recognized officials of independent nations," Guingona said. ***With a report from Cynthia Balana***

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Outrage over sex abuse

From page A1

mediate psychiatric attention, according to Himpon.

"Rape is a form of ethnic cleansing, a way of subjugating a (people)," said Bishop Ramon Arguelles, head of the Episcopal Commission for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (Ecmi).

Arguelles condemned the rape of the Filipino women whom he likened to "those in Bosnia and Nazi Germany who were forced to give sex for food and other comforts."

"These women have become modern-day comfort women in the hands of Malaysian authorities," said Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza, also secretary general of the women's group Gabriela.

Jose Ma. Rufino, presidential adviser on political affairs, said that Malaysian authorities themselves were appalled by reports of cruelty to detained Filipino women and that they pledged to act against the perpetrators.

"The message is for everybody, including our politicians, to keep their cool," Rufino said in a phone interview. "We must avoid inflammatory statements as these will not help the situation."

Senators said the government should file criminal charges against the Malaysian policemen.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur should investigate the report and file appropriate charges with Malaysian courts.

"This is terrible," Drilon said. "We should look into this and do everything to bring back all those in the detention centers. We should leave no stone unturned," he said.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said charges must be pursued in Malaysia to erase any perception that the government was not protecting Filipinos abroad.

"Enough is enough. This kind of affront to the dignity of our women must not be tolerated," Villar said. "If these Malaysian policemen are found guilty, they must be made to face the full consequence of their country's laws."

CLOSER to home, or so it would seem for Filipino detainees including Auna Majih (in white shirt) cradling her 8-day-old infant who talk about their ordeal to Nur Jaafar, head of the Philippine mission to Malaysia. DENNIS SABANGAN

Castration

Under the Muslims' Shariah law, the punishment for rape is the severance of the offending body part, according to Villar.

"In rape for instance, the punishment is severance of the male organ. Whatever the penalty for rape is in Malaysia, this should be applied if these policemen are found to be guilty of abusing our women. They must face no less than the full consequences of their actions," he said.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is "seriously but quietly" investigating reports that Filipino women were raped in deportation camps in Sabah.

"We will come up with an official report on the matter. But we'd like to ask the media at this time to prudently handle the matter to protect the reputation of any victims involved," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is reportedly waiting for the official report of the nine-member delegation scheduled to return from Sabah on Friday.

The Philippine delegation to Sabah yesterday met with Malaysian authorities for preliminary discussions on ways to ensure the safety and well-being of Filipino illegal aliens detained in Sandakan, Kota Kinabalu and Tawao.

Noor Jaafar, presidential adviser for Muslim communities and head of the Philippine delegation, met with top officials in Sabah before the group went to the detention centers to meet the deportees. They were expected to visit the Filipinos in Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan yesterday.

Bunye said the President would give a statement on the matter once she received the delegation's report.

Emmie de Jesus, Gabriela deputy secretary general, lashed out at the President's call for "prudence, sobriety and reason."

Insensitive

De Jesus said Ms Macapagal should be more compassionate toward women.

"Our sisters are being made into sex slaves. At this point, only an insensitive and unfeeling person can afford to be prudent, sober and reasonable," De Jesus said in a statement.

"For once, Ms Macapagal could have shown genuine feelings of compassion for her fellow Filipinos, especially for her fellow women. But unfortunately, she has merely chosen to use the deportees as backdrop for another one of her 'Kodak moments' while virtually absolving Malaysia of (its violations)," she said.

De Jesus said the group was preparing to file charges against the policemen involved in the abuse of the women.

"Women are the most vulnerable in this kind of situation. Who knows, there might be more than seven women who were abused," De Jesus said.

Members of Gabriela and Migrante International staged a rally in front of the Malaysian Embassy and the office of Malaysian Airlines to denounce the rape of Filipino women.

The groups urged the Philippine government to take the issue to international courts and make the Malaysian government pay for the sexual abuse committed against Filipino women.

Migrante secretary general Poe Gratela said the group would file a class suit against the Malaysian government with the International Court of Justice for the grave abuse heaped on the deportees.

"They killed our children, they raped our women, they burned our homes," Gratela said at the rally where the group brought small cardboard coffins to signify the death of children. He also called on Filipinos to boycott Malaysian products and services.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said local leaders in Mindanao, including Bongao Parish priest Fr. Rito Daquipil and the provincial Social Welfare Officer Hania Aliakbar, had expressed their concern over the issue and called on the Philippine government to act on it.

Legarda has filed Senate Resolution No. 433 asking the committees on foreign relations and women to look into the reported sexual slavery of detained Filipino women in Malaysia.

"No country would admit to committing any wrong on the nationals of other countries," Sen. Edgardo Angara said in rejecting any possible denial from Malaysia.

Duped

Bishop Arguelles theorized that some of the women could be victims of white slavery syndicates operating in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

He said an Ecmi volunteer related to him the case of 60 women who were duped into thinking that they were being sent for work to South Korea.

Arguelles said each of the women was made to pay recruiters operating in Manila, Zamboanga and Davao P60,000 for fare and job placements.

The women were made to board planes to Bangkok, Thailand, supposedly en route to South Korea. But from Bangkok, they were flown to Kota Kinabalu where they ended up working as sex slaves.

The Philippine consular officers in Sabah encouraged Filipinos who were allegedly sexually and physically abused to file formal complaints so the country could pursue their respective cases with the Malaysian authorities.

"We always ask them about these incidents during the course of their documentation. But since they were still in Malaysia at the time, they were afraid to come out with such stories," said Consul Manny Comia, head of the Philippine consular team in Sandakan.

"We have yet to hear first-hand accounts of such incidents here. It's a good thing that after they left Malaysia, they came out with their stories," Comia said in a telephone interview.

Consul Giovanni Palec, the head of the consular team in Kota Kinabalu, encouraged victims to file formal affidavits of complaint.

"We ask our countrymen to be very specific in formalizing their charges. This will make it easier for us to ask the Malaysian government to go after their erring officers," Palec said.

Rufino said Malaysian authorities would prosecute their own officials found responsible for the inhuman treatment of Filipinos in Sabah.

"This thing will be solved," Rufino said. "They (Malaysians) have assured us that justice will be served."

"We have a very gingerly situation and we are telling you that this is being addressed through back channels, official government lines and political party-to-party communications," Rufino said.

Rufino noted that the ruling Lakas-NUCD would initiate contact with the Umno party of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in an effort to alleviate the situation of Filipinos in Sabah.

Mahathir had earlier ordered a moratorium on the deportation following a phone conversation with Ms Macapagal on Friday.

Government estimates place the remaining number of Filipinos in Sabah at about 50,000. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Leila B. Salaverria and Gerald G. Lacuarta***

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154 sick deportees arrive in Tawi-tawi

From page A1

Capt. Damian Carlos, Coast Guard district officer for Western Mindanao, said some of the children were among the deportees sick with diarrhea, malnutrition and upper respiratory diseases.

Upon the boat's arrival, eight children and an old woman were rushed to the hospital. The boat's manifest showed that 81 of the passengers were children.

Dr. Ernesto Bontuyan of the National Epidemiology Center said the patients were "already stable" but required "continuous medical attention."

He joined the deportees on the trip from Sandakan to Tawi-Tawi.

Dr. Al Wajer Himpon said most of the patients came from Duchess of Kent Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kota Kinabalu.

Most of the deportees were originally from Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Basilan. Only 10 repatriates were from Tawi-tawi.

Flag burning

In Davao City, a group of Moro women and militants marked Malaysia's founding day on Monday by burning its flag in front of its consular office.

Amalia Panayaman, deputy chair of Moro women's group Khadidja, said the treatment of Filipinos in Malaysia was a "crime and a barbaric attack against humanity."

Panayaman lashed out at President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly "not lifting a finger to help the deportees."

"She just allowed the Malaysian government to maltreat our fellow Filipinos," she said.

Alarmed by reports of physical and sexual abuses against Filipino deportees, human rights lawyers and a migrant workers group are mulling the filing of a class suit against the Malaysian government.

In Manila, human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong, head of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines committee on the Filipino migrant workers' rights, said he had formed a team of experts to "explore the legal remedies" for the families of the victims of abuse.

He said he would also contact human rights lawyers from Malaysia for assistance in initiating legal action against abusive officials of the Malaysian government and police.

Capulong said there was a "wide range of sanctions" that the victims could pursue, from criminal prosecution to administrative and diplomatic penalties.

"We are studying the viability of legal action, but we will need hard facts and evidence," Capulong told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Migrante International, a nongovernment organization overseeing the welfare of overseas Filipino workers, said it was already communicating with the families of victims who died in the cramped detention cells to encourage them to file a suit against and demand indemnification from the Malaysian government.

Migrante chair Leo Legaspi said that members of the group in Mindanao were seeking out the families of the victims, including those who were allegedly raped by members of the Malaysian police.

Legal action

Migrante is working with other NGOs and the Public Interest Law Center, of which Capulong is the president. The Public Defenders Office has also expressed willingness to assist in any legal action against Malaysia.

"What diplomatic ties are they talking about? They rape our women; they treat Filipinos as slaves. Their kind of diplomacy invokes nothing but anger," Legaspi said.

Capulong said the team of lawyers from the IBP and other private groups would study the possible legal remedies under international treaties or conventions outlining the rights of migrant workers.

Citing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Capulong said that private individuals could file complaints with the UN Human Rights Committee without coursing their complaints through their government.

A class suit, however, will entail legal complications, said Capulong, who had assisted in the filing of a class suit against the estate of former president Ferdinand Marcos for abuses during martial law.

He said a class suit could be filed with a Philippine court if the government asserted its rights over Sabah.

The Philippines or concerned NGOs should send a fact-finding board to collect evidence and testimonies if a lawsuit is finalized, according to Capulong. ***With reports from Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau;***

Is Piatco a dummy of German firm?

From page A1

"There are so many layers because there is inter-locking ownership that arouses suspicion," he said.

At the hearing, a diagram was presented showing the shareholder structure of Piatco, with Fraport owning 30 percent; Japanese firm Nissho Iwai, 10 percent; and the Cheng group, led by Piatco president Cheng Yong, 60 percent.

But the diagram submitted by Presidential Adviser on Strategic Projects Gloria Tan Climaco also showed that "Fraport's effective interest" in Piatco was actually 61.44 percent.

The Germans' effective interest is the sum of Fraport's 30-percent direct equity and 31.44-percent holdings in three of the Cheng family's subsidiaries, namely Philippine Air Grounds Services (PAGS) (14 percent), PAGS Terminals Inc. (8.4 percent) and PAGS Terminals Holdings (9.04 percent).

Climaco said the Cheng group could be holding on to an equity stake of only 38.66 percent.

Piatco board

The presentation moved Arroyo to.ask for a copy of Piatco's shareholders agreement, for submission in the next hearing on Friday.

"That's the mystery. We don't even know who are on the 13-man Piatco board," Arroyo said.

He said the shareholders agreement would reveal "what the real internal arrangements between Fraport and the Cheng group are."

"There is this mystery of how a group which contributed only $16 million (to) the project can lord it over the one who paid $409 million," he said.

Arroyo added that the shareholders agreement could also explain why the names of private individuals like Joanne de Asis and SGV Group founder Washington Sycip were among those that cropped up during the negotiations with Fraport.

In yesterday's hearing, Piatco counsel Eduardo delos Angeles presented to the committee a copy of a letter of Sycip to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, thanking him "for graciously receiving Kurt Lauk and de Asis."

"With your encouragement, they have responded very quickly to other problems of Fraport," Sycip told Romulo in his April 19 letter.

The Sycip letter preceded a series of letters between Climaco and Fraport officials that led to an "amicable settlement" last month.

Shifting stand

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara chided Malacañang for its "ambiguous, shifting stand on the Piatco deal."

Angara pointed out that, during the confirmation hearings of former Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Malacañang had maintained that the BOT contract was aboveboard.

"Then now, in this hearing, the government says no, this is an onerous and burdensome contract," Angara said.

"There are suspicions of an unseen, strong hand because of this ambiguity in the government's position," he added.

Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, said he would be holding a separate hearing "to look into the strategic activities of Climaco."

"Whether they are strategic for the country or strategic for some investors, we will know during the hearing," he said.

Exclude Climaco!

In the House, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. urged Malacañang to exclude Gloria Tan-Climaco from a government panel tasked to review the controversial Piatco contract.

Pichay welcomed the creation of the review panel, saying this could result in an "amicable settlement" of the dispute.

"The President's pledge to uphold the sanctity of contracts and for privatization to remain a cornerstone of state economic policy is reassuring to investors," he said in a statement.

"However, Ms Tan-Climaco's inclusion in the panel is not conducive to an amicable settlement," Pichay said.

The previous day, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen delivered a privilege speech questioning Climaco's $400-million offer.

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, in his interpellation, said it was unnatural for a negotiator to offer more than what was being asked by the seller.

As a result of Dilangalen's speech, Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina asked that the House committee on good government reopen its investigation on Piatco.

Baterina said Climaco should be invited to the inquiry to shed light on her controversial proposal.

But Baterina sided with Climaco, saying even the Piatco contract provides leeway for government to take over in the event of a default by the local partners.

Both probes

Piatco officials welcomed the probes in both houses, and said the company had in fact already acquiesced to government requests regarding allegedly onerous provisions in its contract.

Lawyer Moises Tolentino, Piatco vice president for public affairs, said the consortium "has always been willing to consider ways (to improve the agreement.)"

"In fact, Piatco has already agreed to waive the contract clauses that would affect the development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport," Tolentino said in a statement.

The guaranteed flights into Terminal 3 would have affected traffic into the DMIA but Piatco and the government agreed on the amendment that waived the pertinent provisions on the matter during Alvarez's term.

"Piatco looks forward to this opportunity to finally present its whole case to the government. We are very optimistic about this development especially after months of mostly exclusive talks between Secretary Gloria Tan-Climaco and Fraport AG," Tolentino said. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and Juliet Javellana***

Wood rewrites Cubs' history

CHICAGO, Illinois—Kerry Wood became the third pitcher in Chicago Cubs' history to record four strikeouts in one inning, but the first to homer on the same day. Wood pitched seven strong innings on Monday and hit one of his team's five home runs as the Cubs beat the Milwaukee Brewers, 17-4. *AFP*

SPORTS

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RULES REVISIONS

'Jins can strike gold by fighting it out'

World champion training team since last May

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AGGRESSIVENESS.

That should be the main weapon of the national taekwondo team in order to keep up with the tough field in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

HONG

The Asiad is set from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14 in South Korea's second largest city after Seoul.

Sung Chon Hong, vice president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association, said the national jins can't afford to be "too defensive" following recent revisions of international rules which give premium on audacity.

Unlike before when every kick connected–meaning, the kick seen and scored by at least two of the three scoring referees–is worth only a point, jins can now score multiple points in a single rush.

A solid kick to the body that fells an opponent is worth two points, same with a kick in the head or face.

A jin can also pull off his own version of basketball's three-point-play if he can floor his rival–or at least send him staggering–with a kick in the head.

"So now they have no choice but fight it out," said Hong, who is considered the father of Philippine taekwondo after establishing the martial art here 26 years ago. "There is no room to play defensive because the important thing is to score. But you still have to be very careful not to get hit. You still need to play smart."

The good thing is, the 14-strong national team is made up of seasoned veterans who have competed and trained in Korea, Japan, Jordan and Turkey the past six months.

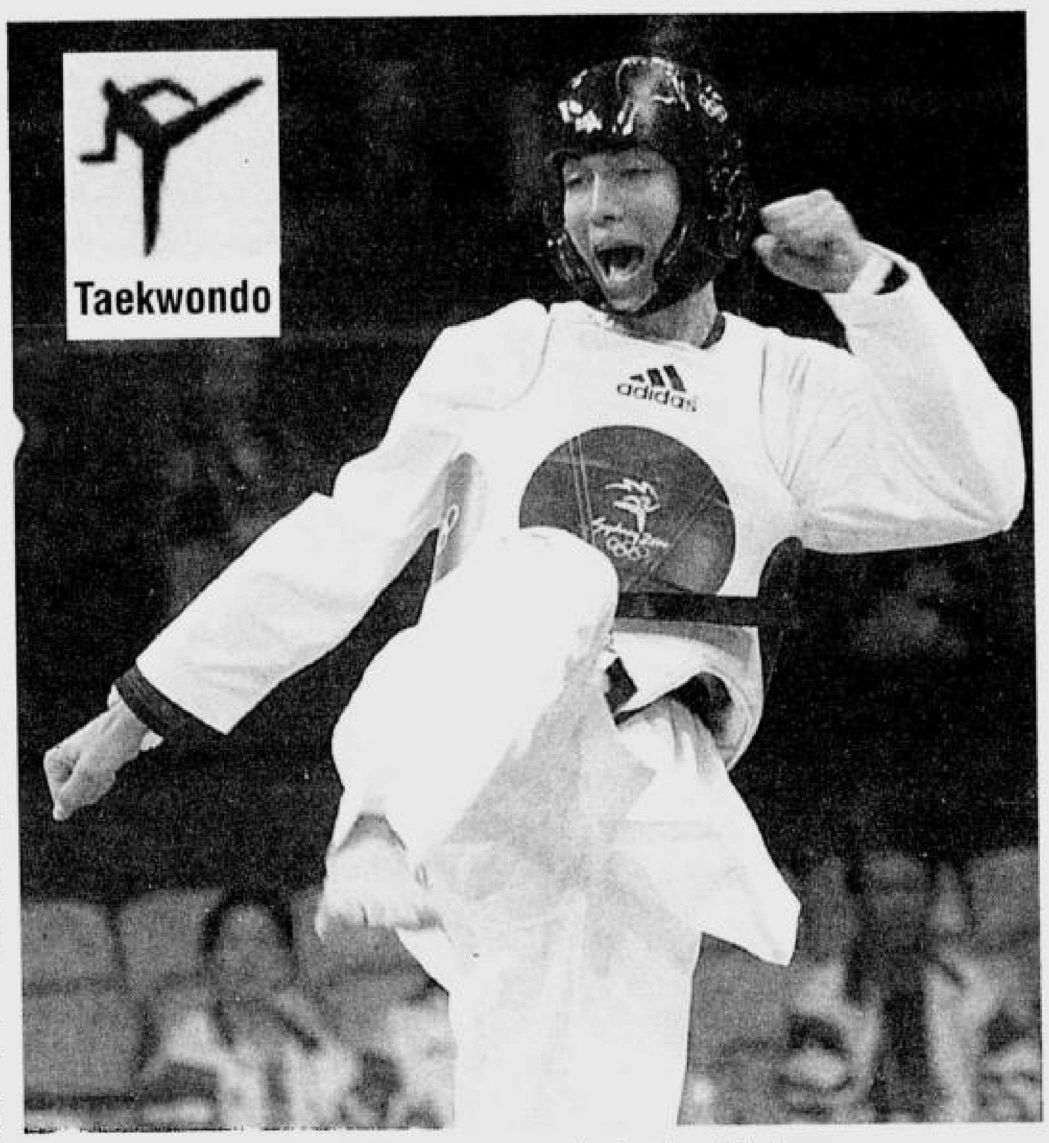
"I think we are sending a team that is a lot tougher now compared to four years ago in Bangkok," said Hong of his wards.

Leading the pack are Olympians Kitoy Cruz, Donnie Geisler and Eva Marie Ditan who are raring to surpass the country's 1998 output of one silver and three bronze medals.

Hong added that they have already gotten the services of former world champion Tae Hyung Kim of Korea. Kim has been here since May. He will steer the national team until 2004 Olympics.

Also in the team are Tshomlee Go, Manuel Rivero Jr., Alexander Briones, Jeferthom Go, Dindo Simpao, Kalindi Tamayo, Veronica Domingo, Sally Solis, Margarita Bonifacio, Jasmin Strachan and Daleen Cordero.

"I don't want to predict how many golds we will win, but there's a strong chance we can take home gold medals," said Hong, who is also a member of the powerful executive council of the World Taekwondo Federation and VP of the Asian and Southeast Asian Unions. "That is, if the jins are in top condition and if they are lucky in the drawing of lots."



GEISLER: The Sydney Olympian is a strong contender for the gold in Busan.

FILE PHOTO/ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SSC seeks incentive against JRU today

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	10	3
CSB	9	4
PCU	9	4
JRU	9	4
Letran	7	6
Mapua	6	7
UPHR	1	12
San Beda	1	12

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—SSC vs JRU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian College guns for a twice-to-beat advantage when it tackles Final Four companion Jose Rizal University at the end of their regular campaign in the 78th NCAA basketball tournament today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Stags and the Heavy Bombers are already in the Final Four but the outcome of their 2 p.m. encounter presents an array of possibilities that could shape and shake the fate of the other semifinalists.

Should the defending champion Stags win, they will automatically grab the No. 1 spot and earn a twice-to-beat incentive going into the playoffs.

A setback, however, will send the Stags to either No. 2 or No. 3 depending on the outcome of the PCU-St. Benilde clash on Friday.

That scenario will give the Heavy Bombers a clear shot at being No. 1 or No. 2 provided the Dolphins beat the Blazers and the quotient works in JRU's favor.

The Stags are alone at the top sporting a 10-3 record while PCU, St. Benilde and JRU are all bunched in second place bearing identical 9-4 slates.

Letran College and Mapua fight for pride and self-esteem in the other senior game with the winner ruling the battle of Intramuros.

The Knights (7-6), who are already guaranteed of a fifth-place finish win or lose, and the Cardinals (6-7) are virtually out of the playoffs.

Fate of UE's Tubid, Booker unknown

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE FATE of flamboyant University of the East guards Ronald Tubid and Arnold Booker now lies at the hands of the UAAP technical committee.

Commissioner Joe Lipa yesterday submitted his report after reviewing the tape of the recent UE-La Salle game at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Lipa and his deputy Jojo Villa declined to comment on their recommendation, leaving the technical committee headed by University of the Philippines Kiko Diaz the sole discretion to make a ruling on the actuations of Tubid and Booker.

Last year's rookie of the year Mark Cardona of La Salle claimed that Tubid, in a supreme display of unsportsmanship, spat on his face at the end of the game, which La Salle won, 92-85, last Sunday.

Cardona, known for his tenacious defense, also claimed that Booker punched him in the back. Booker was slapped technical fouls that contributed to the Red Warriors defeat.

UE's in hot pursuit of the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

Tubid's action came as a surprise to the fans. The UE veteran, not known for rough plays, plays in a warrior-like determination and usually does high-flying acts–virtues that endear him to the fans.

Dizon, Manotoc star for W'Wack in 'Fed' golfest

TEAM STANDINGS:
Group 1: Mimosa 7, Alabang 6, Sta. Elena 6, Orchard 4, Mt. Malarayat 4.
Group II: Wack Wack 6, Royal Northwoods 5, Southwoods 5, Valley 5, Eastridge 4.
Group III: Forest Hills 8, Manila Golf 7, Riviera 4, Canlubang 4, Tagaytay Highlands 3.

By Jong Arcano

ASIAN Games-bound Marlon Dizon and Tommy Manotoc led their respective partners to convincing wins last weekend as Wack Wack stretched its winning run to three by trashing Valley, 3-1, in the Federation Golf League.

Their victories gave them the lead in Group II and Group I, respectively, at the start of the second round.

Manotoc, playing the best ball format with David Ng, and Dizon, joining hands with Mike Ozaeta in scramble, posted similar 3 & 2 wins that went with the overwhelming 6 & 5 triumph nailed by Kit Lopez-Elphege Wong in the aggregate duel.

After losing its first two matches, Wack Wack inserted Manotoc and young John Gobing into its lineup and the substitution has so far worked wonders for Mandaluyong, which is now leading Valley, Royal Northwoods and Manila Southwoods by a point.

A big shake-up in the standings marked the fifth week of action as Manila Golf and Alabang made mincemeat of their rivals to win bonus points, in the process boosting their quarterfinals bid.

Manila Golf earned its second bonus point after a 4-0 demolition of Canlubang which shocked defending champion Forest Hills last week.

The tandems of Dindo Litonjua-OV Espiritu (aggregate), JP Reyes-Joey Yujuico (high-low), Richie Garcia-John Pana and Jojo Guingona-Dennis Valdes (scramble) swept their matches to usher their team to second place behind Forest Hills at 7 points.

Forest Hills got back on the winning track after a shaky 2.5-1.5 win over Riviera as it remained on top of Group II with 8 points.

A surprise 3.5-.5 trashing of Sta. Elena sent Alabang to a tie for second with their victims in Group 1 behind Mimosa, which wrested back the lead by beating Mt. Malarayat, 2.5-1.5.

Winning for Alabang were Seve Roxas-Chua-Babes Guilatco, Francis Jimenez-Pete Cervantes, and King Stchmeier-Jun Galindez while Caloy Coscolluela-Vic Guzman got a draw.

Finally, a league featuring school league champions

DESIGNED to pit the champions of all school leagues against each other, the Colleges and Universities Basketball Challenge Cup's "Basketball Champions League 2002" will be held Nov. 9-25 at the Makati Coliseum.

To be held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday, the tourney, introduced by businessman-sportsman Danding Cojuangco in 1986 when he sponsored the first Inter-Club invitational tournament, will feature the champion teams from UAAP, NCAA, Ucaa, Naascu, Cusa, Prisaa-Mindanao, Baguio Educational Athletic League and NCAA-South.

Also seeing action are Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc., Negros Occidental Private Schools Sports, Cultural and Educational Association, Iloilo Schools Athletic Association and two wild card entries from any participating schools.

Because of the big number of member schools, the tournament will accept two representatives from UAAP, NCAA and CSAFI.

"We dream of establishing a basketball league in the collegiate level that will eventually have all existing collegiate associations represented come tournament time," said Joe Lipa, head of the CUBCC organizing committee. *MA Reyes*

Bold Carrasco predicts 10 golds

By Roy Luarca

TOM Carrasco, chief of mission, yesterday predicted a 10-gold haul for Team Philippines in Busan, South Korea.

This came about as the Philippines joins the rest of Asia in lighting up torches tomorrow as it drums up support for the national athletes competing in the Asian Games from Sept. 27 to Oct. 14.

The nationwide torch run will start in Davao City on Sept. 6 for the Mindanao leg and will traverse the route going to Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Gingoog, Butuan and Surigao City.

All 43 member-countries of the Olympic Council of Asia will also begin their respective torch relays at 10 a.m., culminating with the bringing of torches to Busan, site of the Asiad.

Team Philippines, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Samsung Electronics Phil. Corp. president and CEO Sang Youl Eom are expected to be present at the Glorietta in Makati for the torch relay, which will also visit key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

"Finally, the common folk can now express their support to our athletes by joining the torch run," Dayrit said.

San Beda tops Nike hoop, earns trip to HK

SAN BEDA College reigned supreme in the Nike 3 on 3 National Finals last weekend, completing a dramatic finish with a 13-12 victory over St. Francis of Assisi-Las Piñas.

The Bedans won P150,000-worth of Nike products, elegant trophies for the school and team members and a trip to Hong Kong.

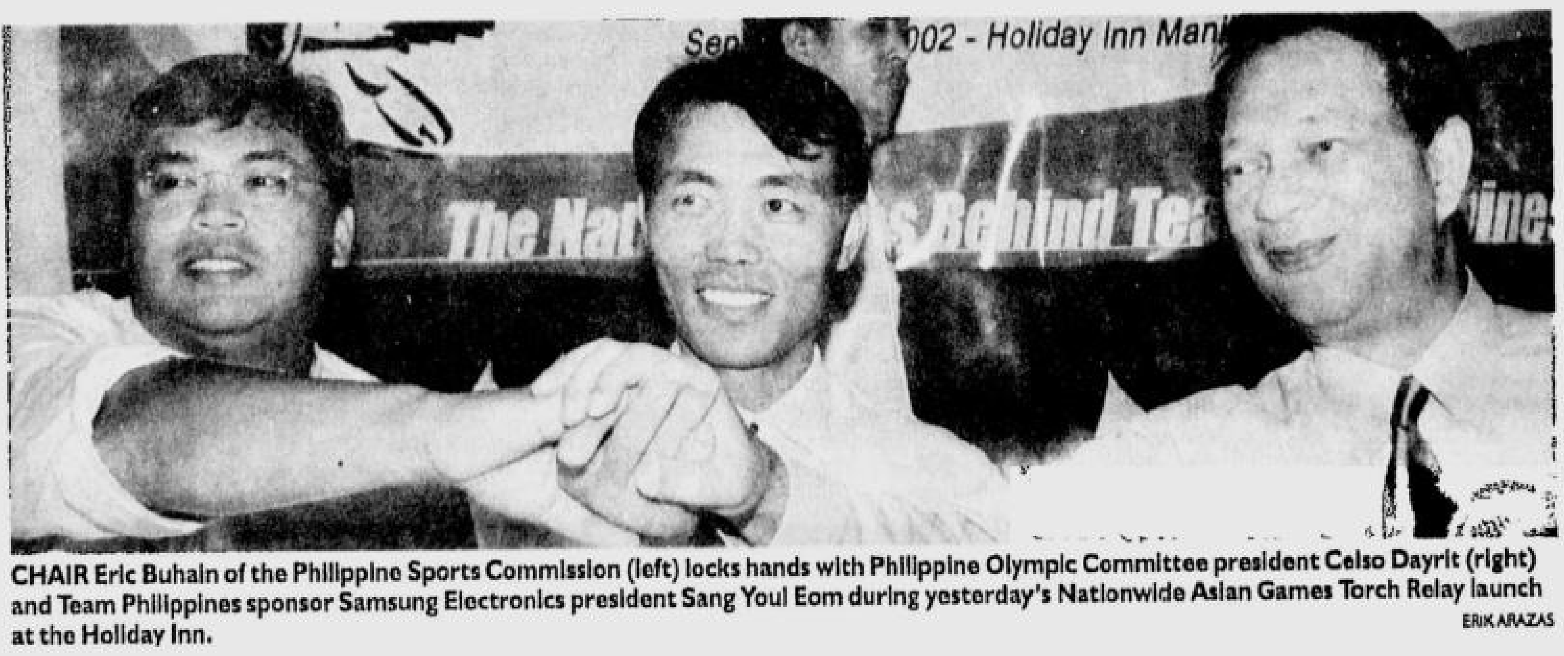
Jayfelson Agbayani scored the winning basket in the last three seconds of the game at the jampacked Dr. Funk's Playground in the Activity Center of the Alabang Town Center.

Agbayani broke loose after receiving the inbounds pass from teammate Joseph Evans Casio and went straight to the hoop for a buzzer-beating lay-up that split a 12-12 deadlock. This came after St. Francis forward Leomer Losentes nailed a game-tying, two-pointer against the outstretched arms of San Beda defenders.

With prized center Juan Karlo Antonio Torres out of the match due to injury, St. Francis fell short on defense in the next play, leaving the floor open for Agbayani to score the go-ahead basket that won for San Beda the championship.

Agbayani, a member of the National Youth team that was badly criticized for its poor showing in the recent Seaba competition in Kuala Lumpur, redeemed himself with the winning shot.

"This victory boosted my morale. For me, it was like the second chance to prove that I'm worthy as a player," said Agbayani.



CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission (left) locks hands with Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit (right) and Team Philippines sponsor Samsung Electronics president Sang Youl Eom during yesterday's Nationwide Asian Games Torch Relay launch at the Holiday Inn.

ERIK ARAZAS

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

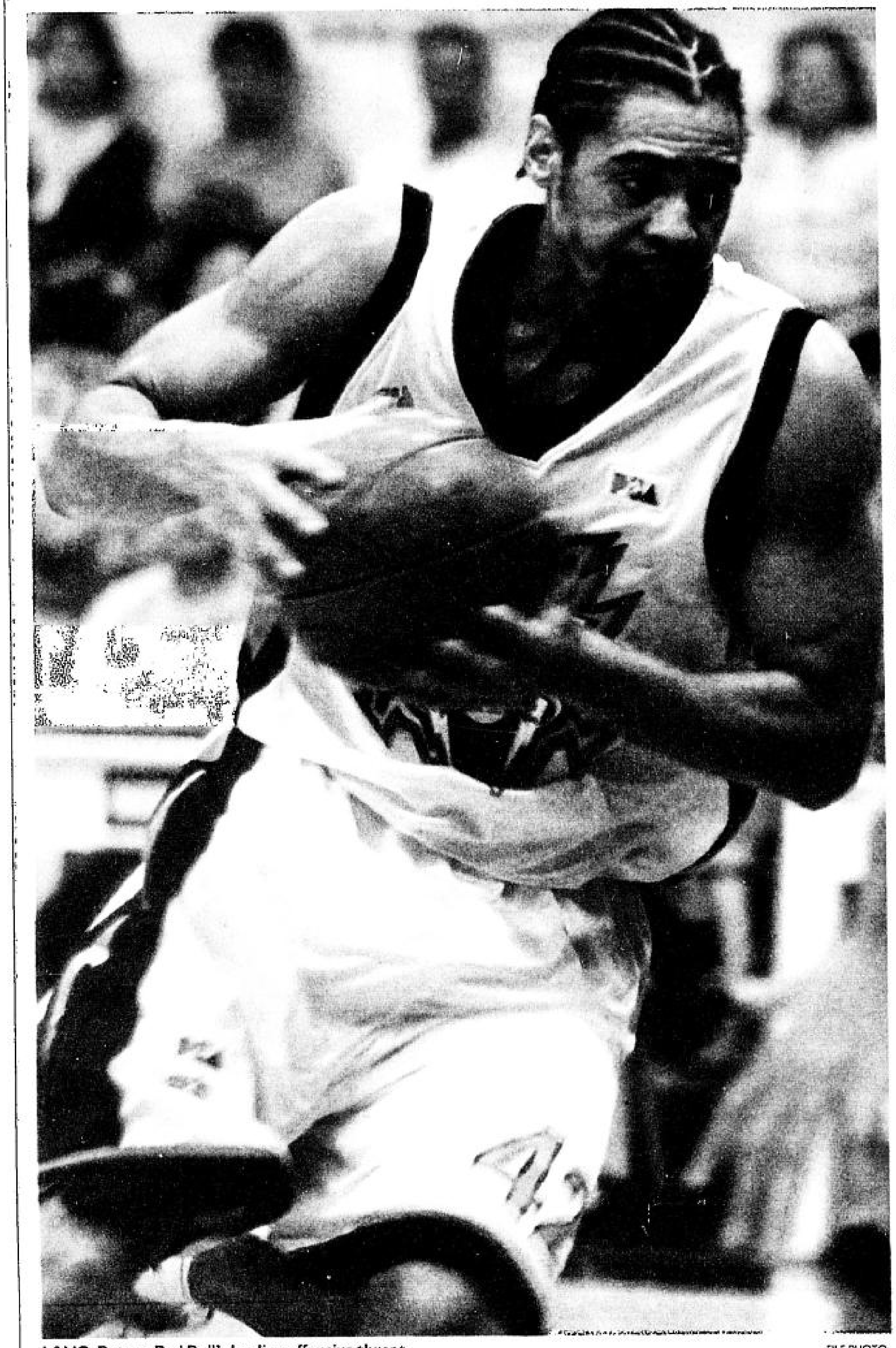
Tennis: US Open 2002 at 7 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Motor Sports: Motorsport Asia at 11:30 a.m. on ESPN

International Motorsports News 2002 at 10:30 a.m. on Star Sports

Golf: PGA Air Canada Championship at 2 p.m. on Star Sports

Baseball: This Week in Baseball at 12 noon on ESPN



LANG: Batang Red Bull's leading offensive threat.

FILE PHOTO

Guiao: We are slightly favored

Batang Red Bull, Talk N Text girding for classic battle of nerves

By Dennis U. Eroa

BATANG Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao likes to call a spade a spade.

When asked to assess the coming Red Bull-Talk N' Text best-of-seven championship series in the PBA Commissioner's Cup, Guiao had an immediate answer.

"I'll not pretend because that will mean false humility. We are slightly favored, not the overwhelming favorites, in this series," Guiao told yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday-Inn Manila.

Game One of the series will start on Friday at the Astrodome.

Red Bull is actually eyeing to retain the Commissioner's Cup title, which it won last year against San Miguel Beer.

The Thunder routed the San Miguel Beermen, 3-1, in the semifinals to earn their second finals appearance.

Guiao is gunning for his fourth crown, Bayno his first.

The Phone Pals, who are seeking their first PBA plum, needed a decider to oust the Alaska Aces in the other semifinal tussle to earn their second finals appearance since entering the league in 1996.

The Pals, then under coach Eric Altamirano, figured in a championship showdown but lost to Shell in the 1998 Governors Cup.

Yesterday, Guiao wasn't in the mood to be lured into a false sense of security.

"A hungry team is a dangerous team. Always, it is ready to score an upset," Guiao said. "I don't want to be put in a position where nothing less than a championship is a measure of success."

Imports Tony Lang and Julius Nwosu have been playing superbly, but Guiao stressed that the locals will have to play a more prominent role if the Thunder wish to win its second title in three years of competing in the league.

Guiao's shock troopers downed the Beermen, 4-2, in last year's finals.

"The imports are even and the locals' performances will determine what will happen," Guiao said.

The heart and soul of coach Bill Bayno's Pals are the hulking Jerald Honeycutt and Pete Mickeal.

Guiao said his charges are ready to face tremendous pressure in the title playoffs.

While the Pals like to play an up-tempo game, the Thunder like to play it slow and deliberate which can disorient even the most grizzled team in the league.

GUIAO: Little adjustments will be made.

ERIK ARAZAS

"At this point, we can no longer change our respective playing styles. Little adjustments will be made in the finals," Guiao said.

Six-foot-six Davonn Harp can add sting to the post-up game of the Thunder. Nwosu's focus is to grab the rebounds and patrol the shaded lane with authority.

Lang, Willie Miller, Lordy Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela and Jimwell Torion are expected to fuel Red Bull's offensive machine.

While Red Bull and Talk N' Text have constrasting styles, Guiao and Bayno both possess volcanic tempers.

But they offset that with their usually superb tactical and motivational skills.

Both will not take "bum" officiating sitting down.

Already, Bayno was fined a record P200,000 this conference for his "San Miguel Beer Basketball Association" classic.

Guiao, a member of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines who had opposed Bayno's coaching stint here, said he will not allow himself to be drawn into a word war with his rival.

"There's nothing personal in this series. It's all about winning the championship, right?" said Guiao.

RUSSIA ROUTED

US turns from sluggish to impressive

Hard pressed in their first three games, the Americans finally unleash their full might

By Roger Lajoie

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Looking every bit like the tournament favorites, the United States scored an impressive 106-82 win over Russia in second round play at the 2002 World Basketball Championships on Monday night.

The Americans had been hard pressed at times in their three first round games, but they looked very sharp against a sluggish Russian team Monday, led by Paul Pierce's 27 points, to win their first game in Group F play.

Pierce scored 20 of his points in the second quarter, as he continues to be the team's offensive leader in the tournament.

Andre Miller added 18 points for the US while Antonio Davis contributed 13 and Elton Brand had 11. Zakhar Pachoutine had 16 points for Russia, while Rouslan Avleev added 11.

The Russians trailed 50-38 at the half and faded in the third quarter as the unbeaten US (4-0) pulled away.

The United States meets New Zealand on Tuesday, while Russia (1-3) faces a crucial game against China.

In other Group F action, Germany defeated New Zealand 84-64 and Argentina routed China 95-71.

The Germans proved they could win without a great game from star Dirk Nowitzki, who went just 5-for-16 from the field and had just 17 points.

But Ademda Okulaja also had 17 points to lead a balanced German attack as the Germans improved to 3-1.

GAMES TODAY
USA vs New Zealand
(RPN/Solar 7-9 p.m.)
Germany vs Argentina
(Solar 1-3 p.m./9-11 p.m.)

Kirk Penney had 15 points to lead New Zealand, who were without the services of Seam Marks, who is out with an eye injury.

Pero Cameron added 14 points for the losers.

Argentina had little difficulty with China, shooting a remarkable 64.3 percent from the floor.

Five players hit double-figures, including Leandro Palladino with 14 points and Luis Scola with 13.

Menke Bateer had 13 points for China, while Yao Ming could manage only 11 points.

In Group E play Monday, Spain held Turkey to a tournament-low 64 points to register an easy 87-64 victory.

NBA Rookie of the Year Pau Gasol scored 19 points and had seven rebounds to lead Spain, while Ignacio Rodriguez and Lucio Angulo had 12 points each.

Turkey's leading scorer Hidayet Turkoglu was held to just seven points.

Mehmet Okur led Turkey with 17 points and seven rebounds.

Brazil rallied from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter and rallied to defeat Angola 86-83 in overtime.

Favoured Brazil trailed with 8.9 seconds left in regulation time, but Rogerio Klafke made three free throws to tie the score.

Angola had a chance to again tie the game in the dying seconds of overtime, but Victor Muzadi's 3-point attempt went out of bounds.

Marcelo Machado had 25 points to lead Brazil, while Anderson Varejao had 13 and Klafke added 10.

Edmar Victoriano had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead Angola.

In the other Group E game in the evening, Puerto Rico startled Yugoslavia 85-83.

With the score tied 83-83 in the dying seconds, Jose Ortiz was fouled and went to the line, making the first shot and missing the second.

He got his own rebound after the miss, was fouled again, and made another free throw to seal the win.

Daniel Santiago had 31 points for the winners, while Ortiz added 15 points.

Predrag Stojakovic had 26 points for Yugoslavia, which slipped to 2-2. Marko Jaric added 16 points.

In the two classification semifinals earlier in the day, Canada defeated Lebanon 91-67 and Venezuela defeated Algeria 98-83.

Lebanon coach Johnny Neumann was fired for criticising the country's government on Sunday and the game Monday marked the first for assistant coach Saskis Koryian, who will coach the Lebanese team for the remainder of the championships.

The coaching change didn't help.

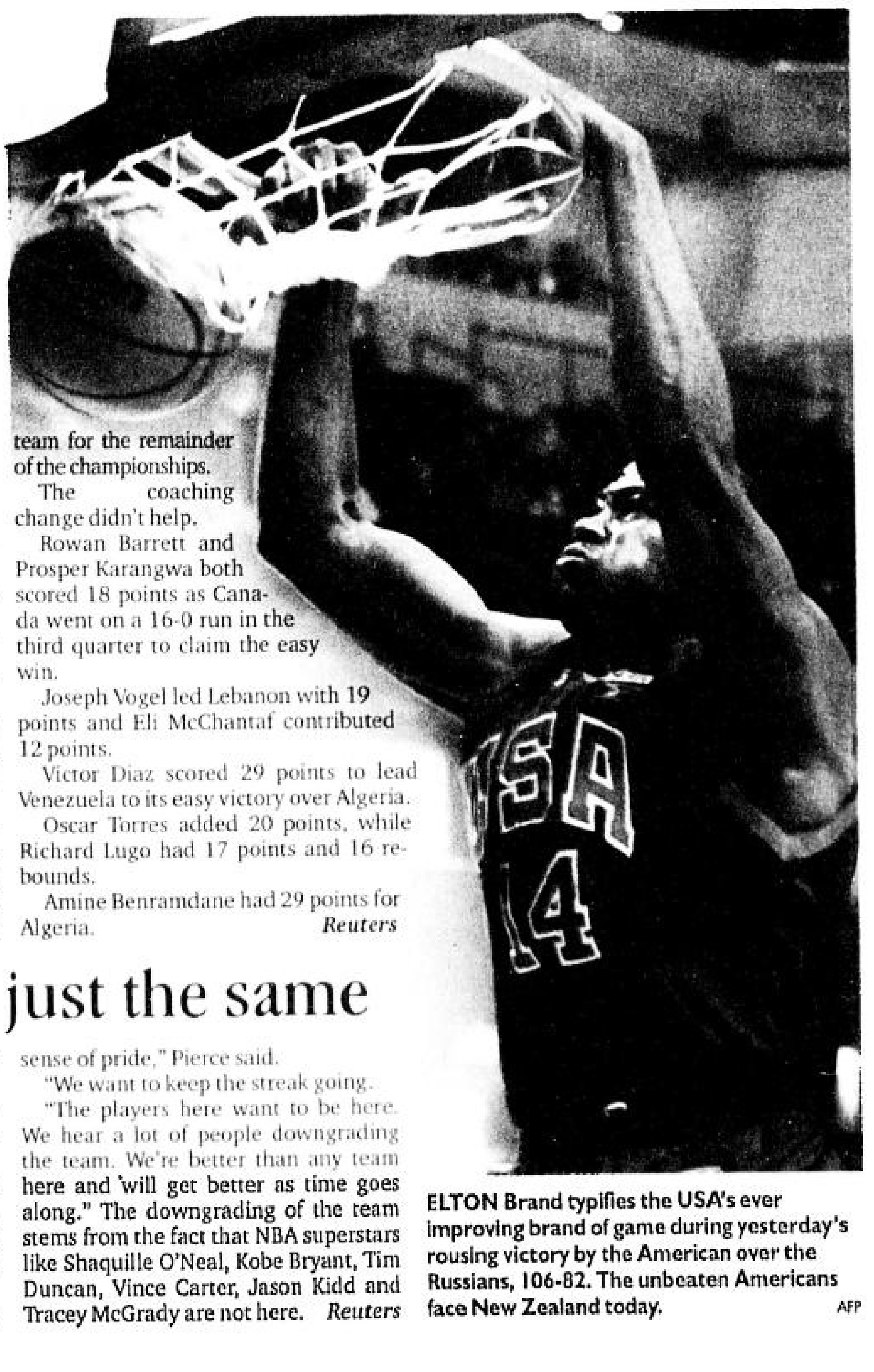
Rowan Barrett and Prosper Karangwa both scored 18 points as Canada went on a 16-0 run in the third quarter to claim the easy win.

Joseph Vogel led Lebanon with 19 points and Eli McChantaf contributed 12 points.

Victor Diaz scored 29 points to lead Venezuela to its easy victory over Algeria.

Oscar Torres added 20 points, while Richard Lugo had 17 points and 16 rebounds.

Amine Benramdane had 29 points for Algeria. *Reuters*



ELTON Brand typifies the USA's ever improving brand of game during yesterday's rousing victory by the American over the Russians, 106-82. The unbeaten Americans face New Zealand today.

AFP

Not 'Dream Teams' of the past but powerful just the same

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—It may not be "The Dream Team" this time around, but Team USA is certainly capable of giving other teams nightmares at 2002 World Basketball Championships.

Considered to be a much weaker overall team than the much-heralded "Dream Teams" of the past, the United States is still a powerful team capable of running most of the world's other top teams off the court.

That is exactly what the Americans did in the third quarter of their group F game Monday night against Russia, pulling away for a 106-82 victory for their fourth consecutive win.

It was the Americans most impressive performance of these championships.

The US had been hard pressed at times in the three first round games, but they looked very sharp against the Russians, who have been a disappointment so far.

The United States is now 57-0 in international competition when it uses NBA players.

That daunting streak is very much on the minds of the players this week, including Paul Pierce, whose 27 points (20 of them in the third quarter) led all scorers.

"We're aware of it and use it as a sense of pride," Pierce said.

"We want to keep the streak going.

"The players here want to be here. We hear a lot of people downgrading the team. We're better than any team here and 'will get better as time goes along." The downgrading of the team stems from the fact that NBA superstars like Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jason Kidd and Tracey McGrady are not here. *Reuters*

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Sampras outlasts Rusedski; Hewitt, Agassi reach last 8

By Howard Fendrich

NEW YORK—Playing in the tournament that's brought out his best during the past two difficult years, Pete Sampras powered into the fourth round by beating Britain's Greg Rusedski, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4, Monday night at a U.S. Open disrupted heavily by rain.

On match point, Sampras unfurled a backhand return winner down the line and let out a yell: "Aaaahhhhh!" The fans responded, applauding and chanting support.

It was tough to tell who was more pleased to see Sampras hit that type of shot again.

"I hung in there. The crowd was great. It got me going at the end," said Sampras, who had 81 winners and broke 1997 Open runner-up Rusedski's serve in the final game. "It made it a little sweeter with the win. As you get older, those are moments you cherish a little more."

Because rain wiped out all but less than an hour Sunday, and then delayed the start of Monday's action more than 7 hours, organizers scrambled to fit in as many matches as possible. After being cooped up all day, stars paraded out one after another, with Andre Agassi, Lleyton Hewitt, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport among the winners.

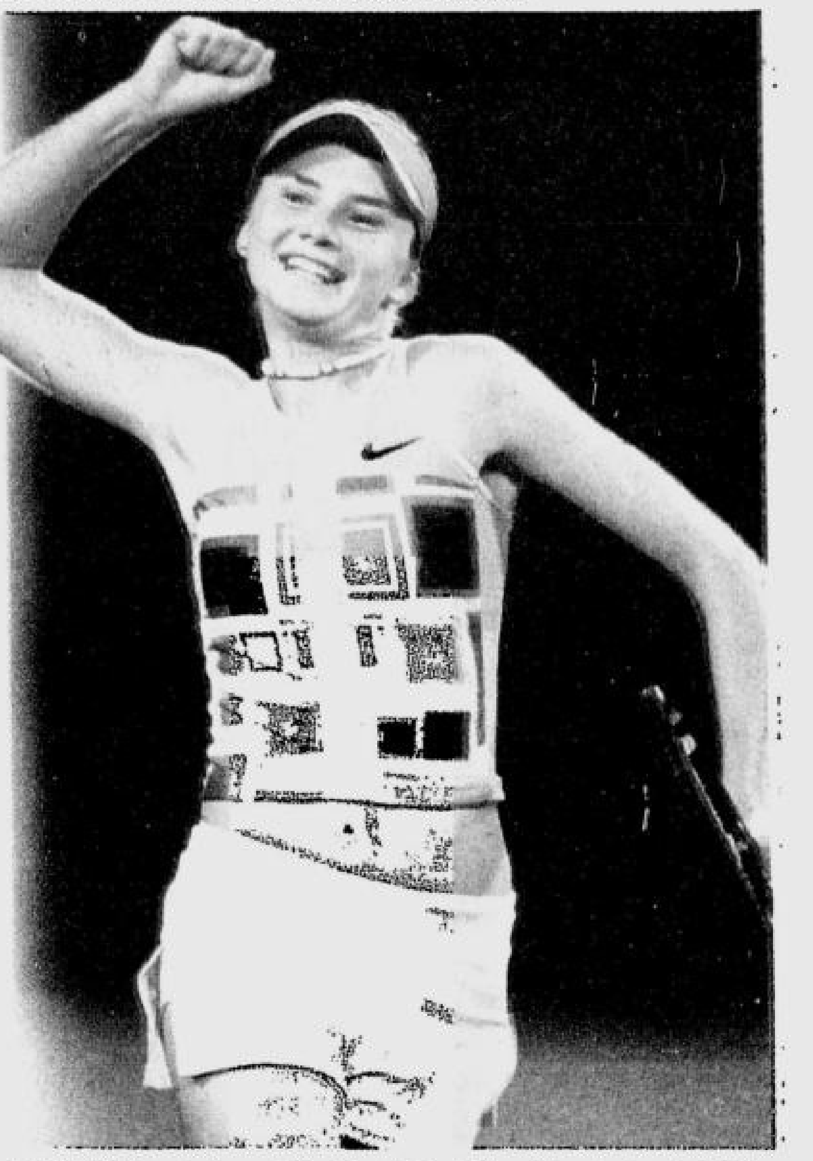
Sampras, seeded just 17th, next plays German No. 3 Tommy Haas—the man who wasn't allowed to wear his muscle shirt at the Open—for a quarterfinal berth.

Defending champion Hewitt of Australia and two-time Open winner Agassi already are in the final eight. Hewitt eliminated No. 14 Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5, while Agassi beat fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, and has dropped 24 games through four rounds.

Davenport and Capriati both won in straight sets to move into the quarterfinals, where Capriati will meet 10th-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France, who knocked off Belgian No. 7 Kim Clijsters, 4-6, 6-3 7-5. Mauresmo beat Capriati in straight sets at Wimbledon and in a hard-court Open tuneup.

Slovakian No. 11 Daniela Hantuchova got past No. 8 Justine Henin of Belgium, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (4), in a match stopped Sunday in the second set right after Hantuchova hurt her ankle and right thumb in a tumble on a rain-slicked court. Hantuchova meets top-seeded Serena Williams for a semifinal spot.

Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil was placed on Court 10, although not for long: His opponent, Nicolas Massu of Chile, quit while trailing 6-1, 5-4, citing right hamstring and groin injuries. *AP*


DANIELA Hantuchova of the Czech Republic celebrates her 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 win over Justine Henin of Belgium. AFP

'A-Train' running full speed ahead

NEW YORK—Far from gracious in defeat, Greg Rusedski said following his nail-biting five-set loss to Pete Sampras at the U.S. Open on Monday that he felt Sampras was "a step-and-a-half slow coming to the net."

While the 31-year-old Sampras may not be the same dominating player he once was, it's full steam ahead for Andre Agassi as he ploughs through the men's draw at age 32.

Sampras and Agassi, whose careers have been linked since they burst onto the scene as teenagers in the 1980s, are certainly in the twilight of their careers. But it is Sampras who has shown signs of wearing down, whereas Agassi seems to be getting better with age.

Agassi has looked nothing short of unbeatable through the first four rounds at Flushing Meadows, including a 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 rout of compatriot Jan-Michael Gambill on Monday.

As he does to most opponents, Agassi peppered center court with his patented powerful ground strokes.

The "A-Train" is running at full speed, and it seems that it will be extremely difficult to derail him in his pursuit of a third Open title. He has dropped 24 games in four rounds and has not lost a set. *Reuters*

Richard warns stalker

NEW YORK—Richard Williams, the father of women's tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams, has threatened to kill the German man who has followed top-ranked Serena around the world if he should harm his 20-year-old daughter. *AFP*

SPORTSWATCH

Astrazeneca tops bowling meet

CHAD Carugin of Astrazeneca and Maryrose Inguillo of Wyeth bested their respective fields to capture the men's and women's overall champion awards in the recent 8th Inter-Pharmaceutical bowling tournament at the Coronado Lanes in Makati. Astrazeneca won the overall team championship with 2164 pinfalls, beating defending champion Wyeth (1971) and Mead Johnson (1875). Novartis went away with the most spirited team award, while Coline Gonzales of Bristol Myers copped the best in women's form plum. Taking part in the annual event organized by Century Park Hotel were Novartis Healthcare, Astrazeneca, Mead Johnson, Aventis, Bristol Myers, Pediatrica, Boeringer Ingelheim, Bayer, UAP, Boie Takeda, Abbot, Wyeth Philippines, Pfizer, Westmont and Glaxo Smithkline. Century Park's sales and marketing director Liza San Juan led the awarding of prizes which include overnight stays at the hotel's outlets and trips aboard WG&A Superferry.

Gatchalian leads Cup qualifiers

FORMER national bowler Joonee Gatchalian finished as strongly as he started to post a 12-game series of 2275 pins at Edsa Lanes Monday and, with 27 others, advanced to the second round of the World Cup national finals. Gatchalian opened his bid with a 215 and finished with a 210, but what also helped him open a 32-pin advantage over little-known Gene Tonolete were his 228 and 219 inthe third and ninth games. Tonolete had only a couple of 200 games—234 in the fifth and 223 in the 10th—but he still wound up with 2242.

A's tie longest winning streak

OAKLAND, California—The Oakland Athletics rallied from a 5-0 deficit to equal the longest winning streak in American League history with a 7-6 triumph over the Kansas City Royals on Monday. By securing their 19th straight victory, the A's drew level with the 1906 Chicago White Sox and 1947 New York Yankees. The major-league record is 26 wins by the 1916 New York Giants. MVP candidate Miguel Tejada delivered the winning run when the shortstop's ninth-inning single off loser Jason Grimsley (3-5) plated Greg Myers to end the contest. It was Tejada's 116th RBI of the season. Veteran David Justice also had a big part to play, as he knocked in four runs with a two-run homer and a single that scored two. *AP*

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Many are called, but few are chosen. Clarion's AXZ613R entered rarefied company indeed when it was named "Best Product Of The Year" for 2001/2002 by the European Car Audio Press Association (ECAP).
The judges, representing eight leading European trade publications, gave Clarion the nod in the cassette receiver category in recognition of the AXZ613R's bold blend of beauty and functionality.

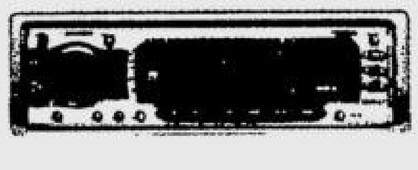
AXZ613R

autohifi

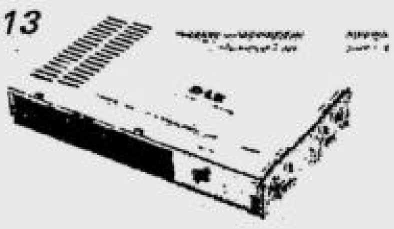
Absolute Top Class

Those who love sound love Clarion. *Autohifi*, Germany's premier car audio magazine, recently declared both the Clarion DAH913 and DXZ718R "Absolute Top Class".
The DAH913 came out on top in a matchup of six makes. The DXZ718R dominated the "Sound" category, inspiring the editors to call it "a new object of desire" for aficionados of CD sound.

DXZ718R



DAH913



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Kids 10 years old and below play football in the muddy fields during the "Gift Football Festival" held recently at the Notre Dame University Football fields in Cotabato City. The event was initiated by the Football Towards Peace in Mindanao through the German Technical Cooperation. It was also part of the Kasibulan 6-12, a grassroots development program of the Philippine Football Federation. Cotabato Mayor Muslimin Sema sanctioned the two-day event.

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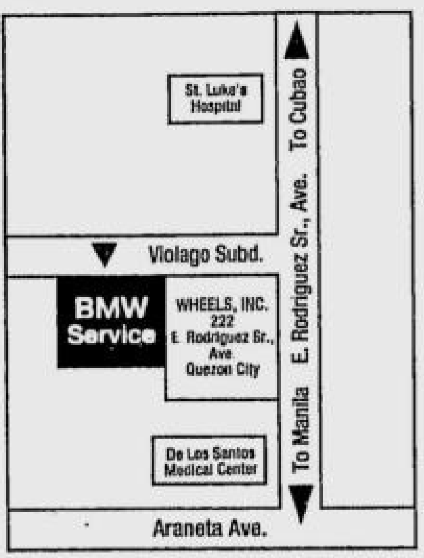

Roligon lines up 68 fights tonight

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's 10th Ray Showdown 7-Stag National Derby championship round unfolds at six tonight with 68 fights lined up. The derby's sponsors are Ninja Gamefowl Feeds and Casino Filipino-Parañaque. "Judging from the thousands of aficionados who watched the opening round Tuesday night, we can safely say that Roligon is finally back on the national cockfighting scene," derby hosts Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu said. A total of 65 entries competed, but only three posted a perfect score of three points each. Tonight's frontrunners are Emil Chua, champion of the 2000 Balbina Cup 8-Stag Derby in Negros Occidental (Concrete Breaker), Eric dela Rosa (Pasay 4-stag Sept. 13) and Bert Matti (Jim Can). It's still anybody's race. The matching of entries is excellent, that's why the competition is very tight," Ty added. For other inquiries, please call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Torre: Our Olympic target is Top 10

By Roy Luarca

FROM Top 20 to Top 10.

That's the revised target Grandmaster Eugene Torre has set for the Philippines in this year's 35th Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia.

He believes that the inclusion of GM-candidate Mark Paragua has made the Filipinos competitive on all four boards for the biennial meet slated Oct. 25-Nov. 11.

Torre, the perennial Philippine team skipper, will again man the top board while fellow GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor will play Board 2 and Board 3, respectively.

The 18-year-old Paragua, who is bidding to become the country's youngest grandmaster ever, will handle Board 4.

"We're deeper now. Mark will definitely be an asset," said Torre. "His extensive international exposure and latent talent have made him solid."

Completing the men's team formed by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines are IM Nelson Mariano II and NM Petronio Roca, also seasoned players.

"Really, our chances are brighter than in the Istanbul edition. We had a lot of distractions then," said Torre. "The last three rounds will be critical and if we get the break we'll make the Top 10 again."

The Filipinos landed 17th in the 2000 Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, an improvement from their 33rd-place finish in Elista but below their best effort of seventh in 1988 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The distaff side is headed by WIMs Arianne Caoili and Beverly Mendoza. Other members are Sherie Joy Lomibao and Kathryn Ann Cruz.

Thus far, Torre said they have been training individually.

"I, for one, have been relying on my computer to keep track of foreign tournaments and the latest games by the masters," said Torre.

Before Sept. 25, the Philippine team will hold training matches among themselves and other experienced players like Chito Garma and Barlo Nadera to assess their progress.

After that, Torre wants the team to be quartered together "to galvanize our bonding and address the physical conditioning aspect.

"The Olympic format is really tiring and exhausting. We need to be in tip-top shape," said Torre, who plays tennis at least three times a week.

TORRE: RP Team skipper.
FILE PHOTO

Baguio chess bets shine

AGOO, La Union—Danilo de Luna and Alex Siblagan of Baguio City made their presence felt by tallying 7 points apiece to rule their respective divisions recently in the North Luzon segment of 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship.

The unheralded De Luna bested Ricardo Salvador III of Sta. Cruz, Manila in 42 moves of a Queen's Gambit Declined in the final round to cap a six-game win streak. De Luna earned a national finals seat, the junior division gold medal and P5,000.

Top-seeded Rey Jomar M. Magallanes of Makati City wound up second with 6.5 points (six wins, a draw) for a finals seat, the silver medal and P4,000, while Tarlac State University bet Francis L. Dimarucut grabbed third place, the bronze plus P3,000. La Union's Fernan L. Quiban settled for fourth place worth P2,000.

With his last-round loss, Salvador fell to fifth place and went home P1,000 richer.

Siblagan, a Baguio City's St. Louis High School bet who is seeded only 151st, ruled the kiddies section six straight triumphs after subduing Tarlac's Nephi Manuel in 40 moves of a Queen Pawn's tussle. Siblagan got a finals seat, gold medal plus P4,000 while Manuel wound up fifth worth P500.

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CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PURELY on form, defending champion Batang Red Bull is tipped to beat resurging challenger Talk N Text in their best-of-seven title series which gets going Friday and retain its PBA Commissioner's Cup title. Still, Thunder coach Yeng Guiao was still iffy yesterday, saying "anything can happen because the ball is round."

"Red Bull is quick, tough and smart," said Phone Pals coach Bill Bayno after Talk N Text upended Alaska Milk in grand style last Sunday to enter the finals in only the second time since joining the PBA in 1996. "We're the underdogs in this series," added the outspoken American mentor.

"We will take that as a compliment," said Guiao. "We could be the slight favorites, but not that overwhelming," he stressed, explaining that this year's series will go down to a nail-biting finish and everybody will be on tenterhooks. The 42-year-old Guiao, who steered the Photokina franchise to its first ever PBA championship last year, said that based on statistics Phone Pals imports Jerald Honeycutt and Pete Mickeal have a higher production. "But my imports (Tony Lang and Julius Nwosu) are more well-rounded being all-around players. And, of course, my locals are better and much deeper."

***

THE GOOD OLD DAYS II. Fearless Arsenio H. Lacson was not only a topnotch sportswriter, hard-hitting columnist and radio commentator, but an exemplary public servant, who resigned from Congress to run for mayor of Manila, defeating incumbent Manuel de la Fuente and serving for three consecutive terms: 1951, 1955 and 1959.

Because he had many stormy incidents in his life, his wife, Luchi Lacson, once said, "A day cannot pass without Lacson having trouble." One time, he challenged customs boss Marcelino Calinawan to a duel at the Luneta, which fortunately did not take place. When he was suspended from office—if memory serves—by then President Carlos Garcia, Lacson replaced his car number with a plate "Suspended Mayor." He died on April 15, 1962, earning the distinction of "the best mayor Manila ever had."

Carlos Loyzaga, born on Aug. 29, 1930, in San Jose, Mindoro, was considered as the greatest Filipino basketball player in Philippine sports history. With his gift of size (he towers at 6-foot-3, a rarity among local players at that time) and his skills as a shooter, rebounder and center he stood clearly above the rest, capping his career as a key member of the Philippine team that finished third in the World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro in 1954. But it was in the NCAA cage wars where he made his forbidding presence felt. Loyzaga was called the "Big Difference" because he could turn impending defeat into victory. He spearheaded San Beda College to many NCAA championships and the YCO Painters to 10 straight National Open in the 1950s and 1960s. He also carried the colors in the 1952 Helsinki and 1956 Melbourne Olympics and sparked the Philippines to four consecutive Asian Games gold medal victories (1951 New Delhi, 1954 Manila, 1958 Tokyo and 1962 Jakarta) and two ABC championships (1960 and 1963).

BIKE FOR LIFE

SEPT 4

Cancer Warriors win outpouring of support

In the first leg of the Bike for Life 2: Northern Luzon Journey, James Auste and his Cancer Warriors team of bikers gained numerous supporters as they biked their way to the hearts and minds of fellow bikers and the community at large.

Early Sunday morning, Sept. 1, Cancer Warriors connected with the 150-strong Cabanatuan Bikers Association in celebrating the Unang Sigaw of Nueva Ecija. Addressing the bikers during the Unang Karera sa Bisikleta kick-off ceremonies, James asked them to join Cancer Warriors in fighting for the recognition of childhood cancers. He reminded them that cancer does not only strike adults. Cancer also hurts and kills our most precious treasures – our children. Everyday, at least 8 Filipino kids, some as young as a few months old, die of cancer. Many deaths are due to delayed detection, inadequate treatment and/or unaffordable costs of medication and treatment. He asked them to give "Isang Sigaw – Isang Padyak Para sa mga Batang May Kanser" so that childhood cancer is given emphasis in government programs and so that poor children with cancer can get appropriate and affordable treatment.

By noon, in the arch of the historic Dalton Pass, the Cancer Warriors team was joined by 40 bikers from various cycling associations in Nueva Vizcaya (Aritao, Bambang, Solano, Bagabag), an ambulance crew from the Philippine National Red Cross, local PNP escorts and the local coordinator and host, Sang at Salug Outdoor Club. Through the support of Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani, a local radio station and Sang at Salug Outdoor Club, an afternoon forum attended by 100 local residents was held in the Baex Multi-purpose Auditorium. Among the speakers was Dr. Melchor de la Cruz, a young US-trained cancer specialist and two mothers who shared the pain and challenges of having a child stricken with cancer. James inspired everyone with his personal testimony of how "God Will Make A Way" so that the Big C can be conquered by the Bigger C-Christ.

On Sept. 2, Tuguegarao gave Bike for Life an unprecedented welcome. A team from the local PLDT exchange escorted James and his warriors to St. Paul University where a Cancer Awareness forum attended by at least 2000 students, faculty and alumni was held. The SPU organizing team was headed by no less than the president of the university, along with coordinator Dr. Editha Aquino, SPU Physician, Dr. Josephine Campanano, vice president for external affairs, Sister Mary James Taguinod and Oscar Turingan of the School of Health Sciences and the Alumni Association president Bel Barias Lim. Three local cancer survivors; two adults (Dr. Eduardo Badua, Samia Abraham-Henrage) and an elementary student of SPU (Precious Vicenta Gem Valera) shared their moving and victorious battle with cancer. James encouraged the academic community to build a strong network of love and support for cancer patients and families of children battling cancer.

HELP KIDS BEAT CANCER BE A CANCER

For donations and inquiries about the "Cancer Warrior Fund" call 551-4588 / 551-1650 or visit www.c-warriors.org Donate through Metrobank Account Number 007 168509240, Cancer Warriors Foundation. For more information on how to fight cancer by early detection, call the Philippine Cancer Society Hotline at 734-2131.

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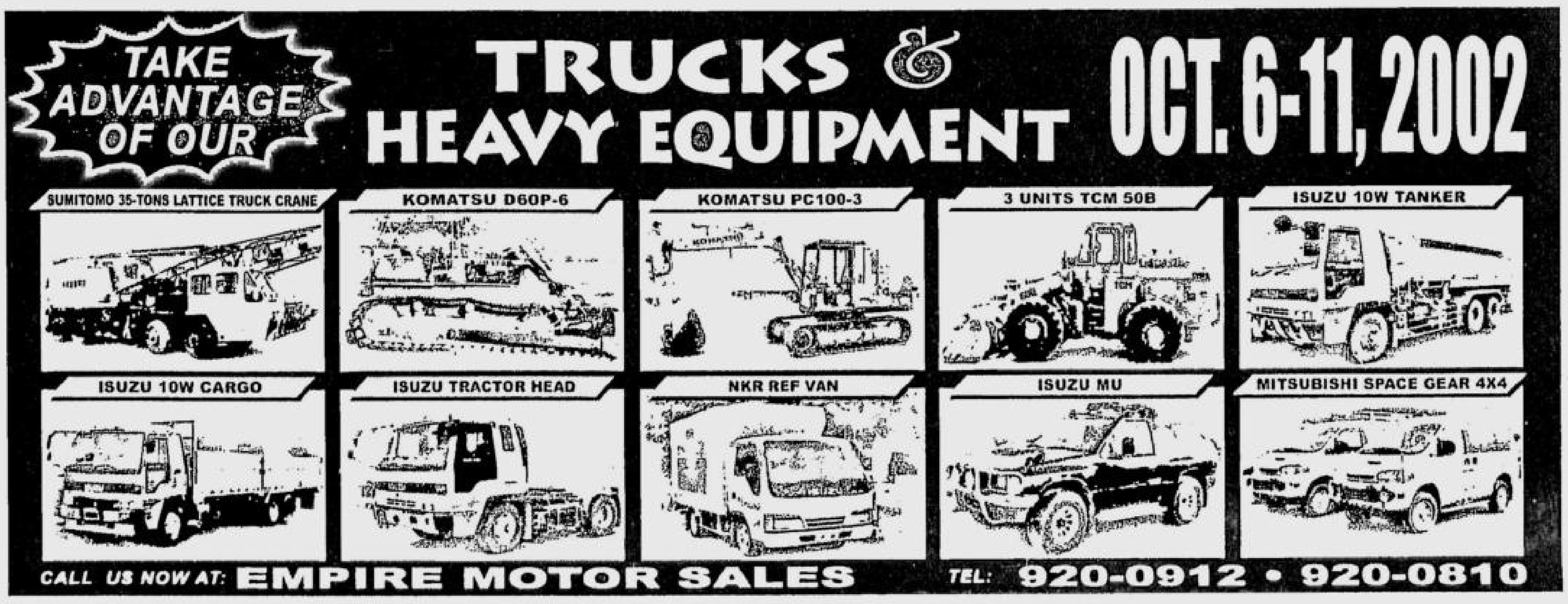
BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Lawrence "Popong" Selga notched 500 points to win the ISU Rifle Match in the DRPA Mid-Year Open Air Rifle and Pistol shooting competition at the DRPA-Beta Range in Davao City. Also today in 1995, Silver Dacuycuy clocked 18:06.95 to rule the North Star 5K Run's seventh leg in Vintar, Ilocos Norte.



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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ 'Prosecutor erred in filing Jawo son's case' /A26

■ Vicencio steps down /A26

Tinga foes groom trader to fight him

TINGA

By Christian V. Esguerra

CRITICS of Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga are grooming a young, United States-bred businessman to contest the mayoral seat if a recall election pushes through.

The critics also slammed Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. for reportedly discouraging the holding of recall election in the town.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano initiated the recall petition against Mayor Tinga and was stung when the Comelec chair on Monday said in a statement that he was discouraging the holding of recall elections in the town because it would be expensive and exhaustive.

"Being the Comelec chair, he should be more circumspect in giving opinions like that," Cayetano said of Abalos.

Rafael Dizon III, 32, a business graduate of the University of

TINGA /A26

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'Middleman' hunted for hiring Chika Go killer

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA POLICEMEN are hunting down the "middleman" who hired the alleged killer of former Manila councilor Chika Go.

A source at the Western Police District said Manila detectives are looking for the person who hired Victor V. Macaldo, 27, of Molino, Bacoor.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday presented Macaldo, along with four other suspects, in a news conference at the Western Police District headquarters on UN Avenue.

Ms Macapagal also congratulated WPD Director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong for Macaldo's arrest.

"Congratulations Pete," she told Bulaong. "This suspect is deadly."

Macaldo has not identified who had hired him to kill Go. "We have an idea (as to who the mastermind is) but we still do not have any solid evidence," the source added.

The source also said there is still no vital link to the person that Go's wife had pointed to as the mastermind in the killing of her husband.

Even before Go's killing, the former councilor and his wife had complained .about death threats and harassment from a certain

MIDDLEMAN /A26

Woman beaten up over texting

By Alcuin Papa

HER LIVE-IN partner hit beautician Glenda Tindan, 32, with an electric fan because she paid more attention to her cell phone instead of him in their Quezon City house early yesterday.

Tindan, 32, filed a complaint against her husband Roberto Maranan, 42, before the Central Police District Project 4 police station.

Police said the incident happened at about 12 a.m. in the couple's house on Magat Salamat Street in Marilag, Project 4 when a drunken Maranan came home and heard his wife's cell phone ringing.

Maranan became enraged when Tindan went for her cell phone to read a text message rather than attend to him, police said. Maranan started to beat up his wife. Not contented, he took an electric fan and hit her with it.

After beating up his wife, Maranan left the house.

Policemen were still looking for him.

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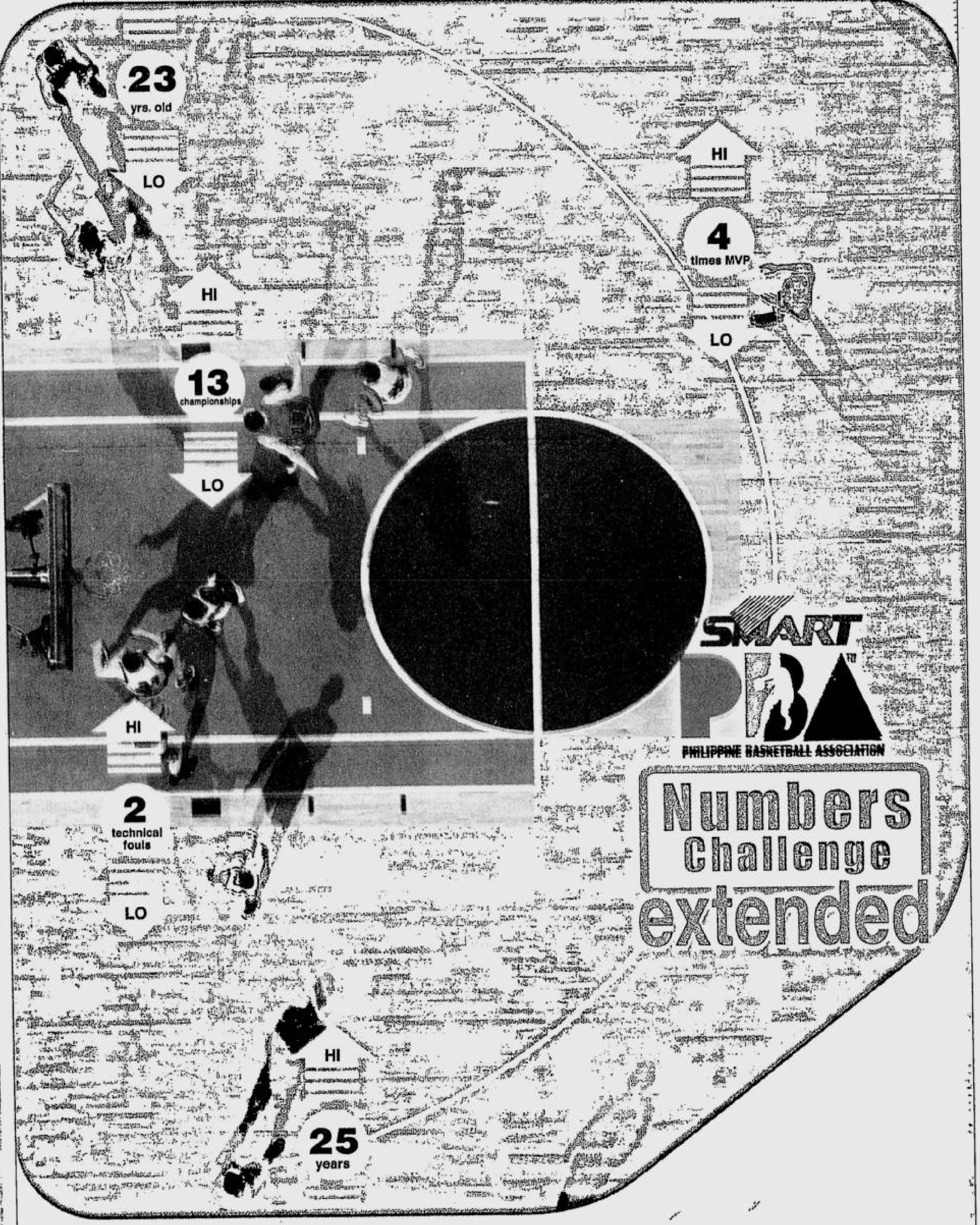

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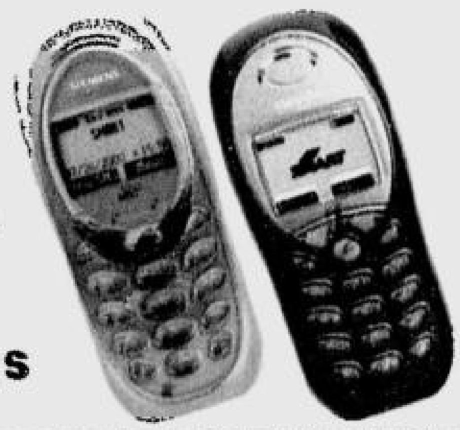

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Team GMA: Changing the rules and winning the battle, too

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

YOU can't liken the RP basketball team to Team GMA in Malacanang.

Our national basketball squad got a much-needed check-up, then received timely instructions from a visiting Australian team, before scoring a spirited win at the Araneta Coliseum on Saturday.

Upon realizing its weakness and strength, the national squad suddenly appeared ready to take on all comers in the Busan Asian Games which start later this month.

At least, the coaching staff, headed by the soft-spoken Jong Uichico, has not allowed itself to be deluded by the fresh developments, capped by that sizzling victory over the renowned Melbourne Tigers.

Bad habits, mainly selfish ways picked up in the PBA, have yet to be dropped.

But, at least, the RP team appeared ready and willing to make the necessary sacrifices and adjustments in time for the Asiad mission.

***

Now, out there in Malacañang, the crime-fighting team headed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did not have to be told of hopeless criminality hereabouts.

The citizenry often cowered in fear.

There was always an awesome threat out there.

The President herself knew she had to shift tactics, change the government's hackneyed crime-fighting style.

Like a team coach, the President took matters into her hands, joined the fray and was practically calling the shots in the all-out fight against lawlessness.

Naturally, there were stunned critics who thought GMA has cheapened the presidency with those photo-ops during presentations of captured or slain outlaws.

Unlike the RP cage squad, Team GMA did not have to be shaken and told how far it had lagged in the crucial fight against criminality.

***

So she played her game as though emergency measures were mandatory.

She practically took on the role of a top cop.

So what if our front pages regularly teemed with pictures of criminals sharing stellar role with Her Excellency?

There were claims these pictures, like the one with a lifeless kidnap-for-ransom gang leader being paraded before GMA in a bamboo cart, could turn away tourists and would-be investors. Because, many people insisted, it would merely confirm how criminality has become main fare in the Philippines.

But the President could not care less.

She could have left the work to top officials while waiting at the end of day to issue commendations whenever necessary.

That was the tired rule, the old style.

GMA, however, saw the urgency and found it fit to use a new strategy.

She changed the rules of the game.

At last count, she was ahead in the battle, too.

Of course, she need not be told that a greater war against criminality, not only out in the streets but also in the branches of government, has to be won.

***

Well, just like with the RP National basketball squad, it goes without saying that Team GMA has to work doubly hard for the citizenry to have complete faith in our police authorities.

GMA should not be deluded by what she has achieved.

She's clearly aware of the urgency, the reason she's always out on the road.

A sound lifestyle, early to bed, then up early for the daily grind.

This seems to be the presidential regimen.

She could also be caught in a cranky mood every now and then.

She said she had tried to drop the habit, but could not always control herself, like in that National Food Authority mess out in Nueva Ecija where the poor *masa* ended on the losing end again.

Well, looking at the comparison, our national basketball team may have to surpass itself if it has to go for the gold in Busan.

GMA appears in a better position to score big for the Poor People's Team.

***

(NIGHT CALL: Bobby Velasco is calling on all regular enrollees and alumni of the famous Café de Malate to visit it at its new location at the corner of Quirino Avenue and Madre Ignacia Street, a stone's throw from the Manila Zoo. Velasco, one of the more successful entrepreneurs in town, promises more relaxing fun-dining, wine, cozy conversation, live music. His café has become more spacious and he says he will offer garden reception after its grand opening late this month. Meanwhile, it's business as usual.)

'Prosecutor erred in filing Jawo son's case'

By Nelson Flores

A SAN Juan police investigator yesterday expressed the fear that the Rizal provincial prosecutor's office is mishandling the case of the son of Sen. Robert Jaworski.

The investigator, who asked not to be identified, said Prosecutor Edgar Bautista erred in rejecting the recommendation of Supt. Rodrigo Degracia, San Juan municipal police chief, that Ryan Jaworski and his friends Michael Castro and Joao Santiago be charged with violation of Article 155 of the Penal Code (Alarms and Scandals).

The young Jaworski, Castro and Santiago were charged with illegal possession of firearms before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court late Friday afternoon and were released on bail on the same day. Jaworski's two other friends, Rodel Comendador and Virgilio Endaya, were not charged and were ordered released.

The investigator said the alarms and scandals case would not only substantiate but also boost the illegal possession of firearm suit against the suspects.

He said a crime related to gun firing like alarms and scandals should be alleged and proven against Jaworski as required by Section 5 Paragraph 2 of Republic Act No. 8294, a 1997 amendment to Presidential Decree 1966 (the law on illegal possession of firearms) authored by Sen. Ramon Revilla, grandfather of the young Jaworski, to invalidate whatever documentation or permit the accused had for their firearms.

According to the investigator, section 5 of RA 8294 defines the coverage of the term unlicensed firearm as, a) "firearms with expired license or b) unauthorized use of licensed firearm in the commission of the crime."

He said the young Jaworski's case clearly falls under the "unauthorized use of licensed firearm in the commission of the crime" clause of the law since the firearm seized from the accused were properly documented.

"Only if the government could prove that Jaworski and his friends indiscriminately fired their guns, a crime defined in the alarm and scandal provision of the Penal Code, would their firearm documentation and permit be invalidated and thus make them liable under paragraph B, Section 5 of RA 8294," the investigator explained.

But if Jaworski and his friends were found guilty of violating RA 8294 despite the absence of the alarm and scandal case, they could face prison terms ranging from 6 to 12 years, the policeman added.

Degracia noted this is the first time an alarm and scandal case filed by his office was upgraded to illegal possession of firearms.

Jaworski and his friends were arrested last week after policemen found on them four .9 mm pistols and an M-16 rifle.

Degracia said the San Juan police station received a phone call between 10 and 11 p.m. of Aug. 28 from an El Tigre Security Agency personnel about an indiscriminate firing incident on Florida Street in Northeast Greenhills.

Members of police patrol 425, 427 and 428 spotted the young Jaworski and his friends on board a Ford Expedition van and a Nissan Frontier pickup.

The lawmen identified themselves and inspected the vehicles and found the firearms inside. They invited Jaworski and his friends to the police station.

At the police station, Jaworski and his friends admitted firing their guns but stressed that they were only shooting at rats.

METROBRIEFS

P1,000 'calesa' ride

JAPANESE professor Takashi Itoh, 57, was willing to pay more for a Sunday afternoon ride in a *calesa* from the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Ermita to Chinatown in Manila. But he was shocked when he was charged $50 for the ride. Itoh, a professor at the Nihon University, complained to police that another man had boarded the *calesa* and forced him to pay P1,000 for the ride, which usually costs only P50, said Investigator SP04 Cecilio Sacorum, of the Western Police District-General Assignment Section.

Philip C. Tubeza

4 'kotong' men fall

MEMBERS of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) arrested late last week traffic policeman P03 Renato Ferrer, 32, of the Western Police District Traffic Enforcement Group; Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) traffic enforcers Danilor Beltran, 52; Lauro Manacpo, 39; and Demetrio Manlles, 48 for allegedly extorting money from motorists. Police said the four were caught in the act of extorting money and goods from motorists along Quirino Avenue, Plaza Dilao in Paco, Manila. The four were charged with robbery and extortion.

Alcuin Papa

4 nabbed, 1 slain

POLICE arrested on Monday suspected robbery gang members Michael Bautista, 40; Ramil M. Zafra, 35; Boyet O. Ramos, 38; Joseph D. Indio, 35; and an alias Junior after a gunfight in Intramuros, Manila. Suspect Gerardo P. Buluso Jr., 32 was killed in the firefight, police said. The suspects on Monday abducted Bank of Commerce employee Richard de la Cruz, 30, in front of the Pasay Post Office on Domestic Road in Pasay City. Police had spotted the van's plate number when the robbers were withdrawing cash with one of De la Cruz's ATM cards. Police had been alerted about the suspects' vehicle after they robbed businessman Agripino Gaspar of P270,000 at the corner of Edsa and Malibay Street last Friday.

Seamen Rogelio B. de la Rosa, 46, and Manuel Enriquez, 42, yesterday filed a complaint against the suspects whom they said robbed them on Aug. 6. Police said the suspects would introduce themselves as policemen and then invite their victims to ride in their van where they would rob them.

Philip C. Tubeza

Lolarga, 71

COL. Ernesto Cariño Lolarga (ret.) died yesterday of cardiac arrest. He was an active officer and board member of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines-Manila Council. He was also the former school administrator of the National Radio School and Institute of Technology which was founded in 1930, the year of his birth, by his father Enrique.

He left behind wife Dr. Erlinda Garcia Lolarga, children Eileen, Dr. Emelinda and Dr. Jaime Lopez, Emmanuel and Marta, Eloise and Michael Johnston, Eleanor and Mumvic Adriatico, and Ernesto Jr., sisters Fe L. Valdellon and Pacita L. Romero, grandchildren Jake Roy and Barbara Grace Johnston, Earl Joseph Lolarga, Matthew Emmanuel Lolarga, Kenneth Noah and Katrina Adriatico.

Beginning Sept. 5, Lolarga's body will lie at the Diliman Bible Church on Maginhawa St. corner Masinsinan, Teachers Village, Quezon City.

Vicencio steps down

By Tina Santos

MALABON CITY Mayor Amado Vicencio on Monday finally stepped down to serve his 90-day suspension as ordered by the Sandiganbayan after he and four members of the city bidding committee were found guilty of graft charges filed by opposition councilors two years ago.

Vice Mayor Mark Allan Jay Yambao took over as acting mayor.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Vicencio for comment but was told he was out of the office.

Vicencio's executive officer Cynthia Crisostomo told the INQUIRER the mayor would abide by the law and would step down as ordered by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"I don't know when will this be effective," Crisostomo added.

The Sandiganbayan's second division promulgated the suspension order on July 4 but Vicencio's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration and a motion to quash the case.

The DILG waited for the antigraft court to decide on the motions, further delaying the implementation of the order until yesterday.

"Although we feel bad that a fellow official has been hit by the order, we have to follow what the court says," the vice mayor said after being sworn in as acting mayor. "Otherwise, we could be charged with dereliction of duty." Yambao assured the people of Malabon that the city is in good hands and he asked that they trust his leadership.

"Whatever service renderedby the Mayor Vicencio's administration, I assure you that this will remain or even much better," Yambao said.

The case stemmed from the awarding of the now-scrapped P122-million new city hall project, supposed to be constructed in Barangay Catmon, to Serg Construction Development-Philippine Management Group Inc. (SERG-PMGI), allegedly a joint venture with Serg as the construction company, and PMGI, SERG's financing arm. The joint venture was later proven to be an unqualified bidder.

'LITTLE PARADISE'

Movie star Ruffa Gutierrez and beauty expert Ricky Reyes visit the young cancer victims at the Munting Paraiso in the pediatric ward of the Philippine General Hospital Cancer Institute. This year alone, the Cancer Institute admitted about 300 patients. Gutierrez said she lost two aunts to cancer and a friend to Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Ermita barangay chair sues accuser

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA barangay official yesterday filed administrative charges against a city prosecutor who accused the official of plotting to murder him on two occassions.

Ligaya Santos, chair of Barangay 659-A in Ermita, City Assistant, said Prosecutor Domingo Orda Jr. was "propelled by ill motives and malicious intentions" when he filed the murder charges against her.

The barangay chief filed grave and serious misconduct charges with the Department of Justice after she learned that Orda was seeking a judge's post in Laguna.

Santos said Parañaque City Judge Raul de Leon, upon the DOJ's recommendation, cancelled on July 5, 2002 the information of murder Orda filed against her and voided the corresponding arrest warrant.

"Fiscal Orda must be dealt with administratively for ... maliciously persecuting innocent persons like us and putting us through the agony of facing grave charges such as murder, despite his knowledge of our innocence and the absence of evidence," Santos said in her 4-page complaint.

Two prosecution witnesses who earlier claimed they overheard Santos and her barangay watchmen planning to kill Orda, recanted their testimonies on April 15.

Dennis and Ernesto Regala denied they overheard such a plan and said Orda "threatened and pressured" them into signing statements against Santos.

A third witness, Gina Azarcon, also recanted her testimony linking the barangay official and watchmen to the slay plot.

On April 2, 2001, unidentified gunmen ambushed Orda in Barangay BF, Parañaque. The fiscal was unhurt, but his son Francis was killed.

On January 17, 2002, gunmen again strafed Orda's car in Manila, injuring his other son Dale.

The fiscal filed frustrated murder and attempted murder charges against Santos but the DOJ dismissed it on July 30 for lack of probably cause.

Tinga foes groom trader. . .

From page A25

Southern California, yesterday vowed to turn the flood-prone town into an industrial city, without the nepotism and clannish politics that he said caused the downfall of the current administration.

"Running a city is like running a business," he told reporters. "Professionalism and good management are needed."

Dizon said residents want Tinga replaced because he supposedly lacks professionalism and sound management skills, especially when it was reported that he hired about 3,000 employees who are all receiving a monthly salary of P15 million. A number of these employees are said to be related to the beleaguered mayor.

Should he become mayor, Dizon said he would immediately lay off 2,000 of the employees and save about P10 million for the local government.

He said these employees need not fret for they may be hired later at the Food Terminal Inc. area, once it has been converted into an export processing zone which will generated about 10,000 jobs.

"Taguig is 30 percent bigger than Makati," he said. "It's just a matter of tapping its many resources."

Dizon claimed that in 1993, he transformed the remote northern portion of Caloocan City into an economic zone, creating about 6,000 new jobs at one point.

He is a vice president of the Jaycees International whose national chapter he headed last year.

But Tinga said on Monday that Dizon could hardly be considered an alternative candidate.

Tinga said Dizon is the nephew of former Mayor Ricardo Papa, a key player in Taguig politics and a staunch rival of the Tingas. In 1995, Dizon's father lost the congressional race against the mayor's father, Dante Tinga.

A graduate of De La Salle Zobel in Greenhills, Dizon looks younger than his 32 years, and speaks with an English twang that could be a political liability.

Cayetano, who initiated the recall election moves, warned that Comelec Chair Abalos could be impeached for giving sweeping statements about recall initiatives.

"I'm just asking him to be fair," Cayetano said.

Abalos' statement came a day after 84 of the 162-member Preparatory Recall Assembly signed a petition urging the Comelec to hold a recall election in Taguig.

Cayetano said the initiative gave residents a "glimmer of hope" in the face of Tinga's alleged mismanagement, nepotism, and dictatorship.

"Three years is too short for a good mayor, but one day is too long for a bad mayor," Cayetano said.

Also yesterday, Henry Duenas Sr., Liga ng mga Barangay president, wrote a letter to Abalos asking him to reject the recall petition and saying Cayetano and his camp failed to get the numbers.

Duenas submitted a copy of a manifesto supposedly containing the signatures of 83 barangay and youth officials rejecting the recall.

At least 82 votes are needed for the petition to move.

"The manifesto shows that Cayetano is clutching at straws," Duenas said in his two-page letter.

Cayetano said his camp would send the one-page petition within the week.

Middleman hunted for hiring. . .

From page A25

Filipino-Chinese businessman.

The vendor who witnessed Go's killing had positively identified Macaldo as one of two men on a motorcycle who shot at Go's Mitsubishi Pajero along Reina Regente Street in the afternoon of Aug. 10.

Go died at the Metropolitan Hospital at 3:25 p.m. from five gunshot wounds in the body.

The source said some five people could have been involved in the ambush.

SP04 Benjamin Nuguid, of WPD-District Police Intelligence Unit, said Macaldo had admitted to killing Go. But the admission was apparently done without the presence of his lawyer.

Nuguid said Macaldo was arrested inside the Jollibee branch at the corner of Tayuman and Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz at about 9 p.m. Sunday. Macaldo was hiding in the toilet.

Police found on him a 9 mm pistol with 12 bullets, and a .22 pistol with seven bullets and a silencer.

"We got a tip that he was going to kill again," Nuguid said. "So we waited for him."

At that time, police had no idea that Macaldo was involved in Go's killing.

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AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	SIGNS
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	BAKAT
4	JOLOGS

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	THE ROOKIE
2	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
3	SIGNS 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
4	DERAILED
5	TRIPLE X
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	UNFAITHFUL

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	THE YIN-YANG MASTER (EXCLUSIVE)
2	HAPPY TIMES (Exclusive)

Onstage
GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27

GB3 GREENBELT 3

1	SIGNS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
3	TRIPLE X 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
4	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20
5	THE ROOKIE 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	THE ROOKIE
3	SIGNS
4	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
5	JOLOGS

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2 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
3 (DTS)	SPIRIT
4 GOLD(DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
5 GOLD(DOLBY)	SIGNS
6 GOLD(SDDS)	SIGNS
7 GOLD(DOLBY)	AUSTIN POWER
8	GAMITAN
9	JOLOGS
10	JOLOGS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3300 833.3374
TEL. 551 63 87

1	JOLOGS
2	TRIPLE X
3	GAMITAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	SIGNS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SIGNS
5	DERAILED

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	SIGNS
5	AUSTIN POWER
6	DERAILED
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
AUTIN POWER
SCREENING HOURS (WED, THURS)
5:50PM, 7:50PM, 9:50PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	HIGH CRIMES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	JOLOGS
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SIGNS
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4	TRIPLE X

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	DERAILED
4	GAMITAN
5	AUTIN POWER-3
6	JOLOGS
7 (DTS)	SPIRIT
8 (SDDS)	SIGNS
9 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3	JOLOGS
4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
5	DERAILED
6 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
7 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
8	SEX & ZEN
9	BIGLANG LIKO

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
6 (DTS)	JOLOGS
7 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
8	AUSTIN POWER-3

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	JOLOGS
2	AUTIN POWER-3
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	JOLOGS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

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Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEX & ZEN
Lords	HIYAS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3	TRIPLE X

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
2	TRIPLE X
3	AUSTIN POWER
4	JOLOGS
5	GAMITAN

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TRIPLE X
2	JOLOGS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX 7
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1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUSTIN POWER
4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	DERAILED

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	SIGNS
2	DERAILED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
3 (DTS)	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4 (DTS)	INSOMNIA

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	SIGNS
2	SEX & ZEN
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	GAMITAN
5	SPIRIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JOLOGS
2	SIGNS
3	GAMITAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	JOLOGS
2	SIGNS
3	GAMITAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	LILO & STITCH
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	JOLOGS
4	SAGAD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	GAMITAN
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SWEETEST THING
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	TRIPLE X

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	INSOMNIA

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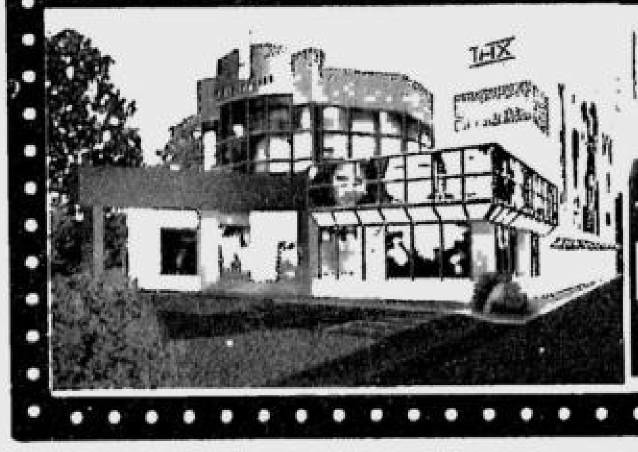

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2	SIGNS
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7	BAKAT
8	AUSTIN POWERS

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1	JOLOGS
2	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	BAKAT
5	HIGH RISK
6	GAMITAN
7	TRIPLE X
8	DERAILED
9	SIGNS
10	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	JOLOGS
2	HIGH RISK
3	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS
5	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
6	BAKAT
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	DERAILED
9	GAMITAN
10	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
11	UNFAITHFUL
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	THE ROOKIE
4	SIGNS
5	TRIPLE X
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	HIGH RISK
8	DERAILED
9	JOLOGS
10	GAMITAN
11	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
12	BAKAT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	DERAILED
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS
5	HIGH RISK
6	THE ROOKIE
7	GAMITAN
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	TRIPLE X
11	BAKAT
12	HIGH EXPLOSIVES

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HIGH RISK
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	BAKAT
4	JOLOGS
5	THE ROOKIE
6	SIGNS
7	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	THE ROOKIE
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS
5	DERAILED
6	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	HIGH RISK
10	BAKAT

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	UNFAITHFUL
4	SWEETEST THING
5	SEX & ZEN
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X

SM CITY ILOILO
3208422

1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	CLOSED
3	SWEETEST THING
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	JOLOGS
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	CLOSED
8	ORANGE COUNTY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	ORANGE COUNTY
3	BAKAT
4	GAMITAN
5	SIGNS
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	JOLOGS
4	HIGH RISK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SWEETEST THING
6	INSOMNIA

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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3	THE ROOKIE
4	AUSTIN POWERS
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	SIGNS
7	BAKAT
8	JOLOGS
9	TRIPLE X
10	HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	HIGH RISK
4	SIGNS
5	THE ROOKIE
6	JOLOGS
7	AUSTIN POWERS

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	TRIPLE X
5	HIGH RISK
6	JOLOGS
7	SIGNS
8	BAKAT

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	TRIPLE X
3	JOLOGS
4	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
5	SIGNS
6	AUSTIN POWERS
7	BAKAT
8	GAMITAN

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	THE SWEETEST THING
4	JOLOGS
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	BIGLANG LIKO

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	SIGNS
3	JOLOGS
4	BAKAT
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	BOURNE IDENTITY

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Simply more tones

“Ate, I’m sending you the
album cover of ‘A Walk To Remember.’
It goes well with the ‘Only Hope’ PolyTone
you downloaded!”

Activate SMART MMS now on your Nokia 7650 by keying in **SET MMS**.
For more details key in **POLYTONES**. Send keyword to **211**

Ringtones of the Future from SMART MMS PolyTones

Ringtones tell other people what kind of personality (and what kind of celfone) you have. With the customization of cellular phones, people have been stamping their personalities on their phones via operator logos, screensavers, celfone casing, but more obviously with their ringtones. Individuals spend hours composing ringtones for themselves or their friends, and saving them on their celfones to scream their individuality.

Now, the future of ringtones has just arrived. SMART MMS introduces SMART MMS PolyTones, polyphonic ringtones that are as close to the real music or song as you've ever heard. From now on, you'll listen to the truth. Choose from SMART's wide array of text tunes or download the hottest tracks from the movies via the SMART Cinema Club.

Do you want to hear John Mayer's “Back to You”? If you like Linkin Park, you can download the hit song ‘My December” from their latest album with the illusion of more instruments – “Reanimation.” Get all these, plus a colored image of the album, when you access Smart Music Link's MMS collection. Wouldn't it be so much better to hear the tones with more than one beeping noise and the impression of a virtual orchestra instead? So key in POLYTONES and send to 211 for further details on what hot ringtones are available for download today!

SMART MMS Traffic Shots is Paving the Way!

Traffic. The mere mention of the word is enough to drive people crazy. People go out of their way to avoid traffic in every way imaginable. Whether it's by using Metro Manila's sidestreets or wasting time at a mall while waiting for traffic to dissipate, Filipinos seem to be constantly looking for means to steer clear of the mess. Wouldn't it be great to know what traffic you might potentially be facing?

SMART MMS now presents a whole new means of being forewarned on the traffic situation. SMART MMS Traffic Shots gives you digital snapshots from up to 20 strategic points across Metro Manila, all at the convenience of your own celfone! Using your SMART MMS-enabled celfone, you can quickly access SMART MMS Traffic Shots at a few clicks of your celfone. If you're in a rush to make it to a luncheon in the area of Ayala Avenue and Buendia, you can find out how clogged the lanes might be by keying in MTRAF BUENDEDSA and send to 311. To learn more about how to use SMART's new traffic-awareness service through your MMS-ready SMART GSM celfone, key in MTRAF HELP and send to 311.

With SMART MMS Traffic Shots, you can forward those digital snapshots to your friends and loved ones so that they won't have to waste valuable time sitting through the bottlenecks across the metro. With SMART Traffic Shots and SMART MMS, you can save on all the time and money you might be wasting while caught in Metro Manila's traffic.

So get yourself hooked and set a clear path through traffic today!

SMART's NOKIA 76
For As Low As

Monthly Amortization for 12 months

Unit Cost	Gold Plan(Monthly Fe
24,000	Gold Standard (₱600)
23,000	Gold Choice (₱1335
20,000	Gold Select (₱1995)
17,000	Gold Premium (₱2665

Monthly Amortization for 24 months

Unit Cost	Gold Plan(Monthly Fe
24,000	Gold Standard (₱600)
23,000	Gold Choice (₱1335
20,000	Gold Select (₱1995)
17,000	Gold Premium (₱2665

*Computation based on Standard Chartered Bank's 24-m
**Other affordable, easy 12 and 24 installment terms are al
and METROBANK/UNICARD

See flyers for details.

Promo is from Sep

Say it with Feeling with SMART MMS CardToons

SMART MMS CardToons introduces the newest method of sending greetings. More than just e-cards, SMART MMS CardToons gives you animated images in full color to go with your message. And only SMART gives you the widest array of cards to choose from. Choose from occasion to general, or even have your favorite Celebrity Pal grace your greetings.

Want Joyce Jimenez to greet your boss on his birthday? How about having Rufa Mae Quinto congratulate your best friend on his recent promotion? With SMART CardToons, all these are possible! Just key in CARDTOONS and send to 211 for details on what images are available and which SMART Celebrity Pals can liven up your greeting.

We may or may not admit it, but Filipinos love getting greeting cards almost as much as we love giving them. They are an affirmation that somebody else cares about us and took the time to greet us on either a special occasion or just because "it felt good". SMART CardToons has made sending good feelings and wishes even simpler and faster.

Go ahead, reach out, and send a SMART CardToon today.

SMART Real Pix: Images Come to Life

Life is a beautiful thing. For ever since man can remember, he has strived to capture life, nature, and the beauty that comes with them through drawing and art. With the advent of the camera and photography, it became easier to capture this beauty as with a press of a button and a click on the camera, the picture was yours. Now if you take the capacity to take pictures and merge it with a mobile phone, what new groundbreaking piece of technology do you have?

SMART MMS introduces SMART RealPix, capturing and sharing life's moments with a few clicks on your SMART Nokia 7650 celfone. Life's joys have never been this easy to shoot and distribute. Once you've taken your digital picture, you can send SMART RealPix complete with audio and video to family and friends to complete the experience.

To activate your MMS feature, simply key in SET MMS and send to 211. Once you receive the settings, save them all and voila!, you're all set to capture memorable moments anytime, anywhere. You can travel abroad and send pictures back home for friends to see in a flash. SMART RealPix allows you to grab hold of nature's beauty and life's precious moments while sharing it with those close to you in a way never before possible.

SMART RealPix, completing the experience of living at the ease of your fingertips.

FunPix Animates Your SMART Celfone!

"Cartoons and movies on my celfone?" Sounds impossible, doesn't it? Well that dream has now become a reality! Whether it's the super robot known as Voltes V, or the groovy Austin Powers, SMART FunPix will bring these unique individuals in full color and complete audio and video in your celfone! As part of SMART MMS technology, SMART FunPix brings new color and life to your SMART celfone as nothing else you've ever seen before. Imagine seeing the hottest anime from the SMART Anime Club as well as the biggest stars from the blockbusters of the SMART Cinema Club moving and shaking as animated screensavers all on your celfone.

Larger than life characters now move your world on the small screen through SMART FunPix! Swing to the funky grooves of Austin Powers and Foxxy Cleopatra from "Austin Powers in Goldmember" or enjoy the exploits of the characters from "Slam Dunk" all on your celfone! Simply key in FUNPIX and send to 211 for the different keywords and access numbers to gain access to images and animated screensavers that are ready for you to download today.

SMART
Multimedia
WALK TO REMEMBER
Ur favorite movie!

PolyTones on

SMART MMS
Multimedia Messaging Service

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Whether you like pop, classical, songs from movie soundtracks, or the latest top hits from the Music Link collection, you can now download them as polyphonic ringtones. And to add to the fun, selected tones come with colored pictures of the artist and the album.

XXX-OST

Lilo & Sutch-OST

Reanimation
Linkin Park

By The Way
Red Hot Chili Peppers

Room For Squares
John Mayer

Come Away With Me
Norah Jones

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

ADVT.

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Deferred monthly payment**
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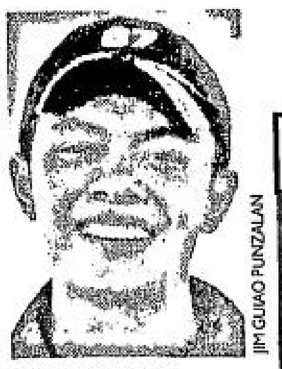


JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

VALENCIANO

Big J Event presents Trumpets musical

BIG J Event Production presents Trumpet's most awaited musical play, "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," Sept. 14, 8 p.m. at Meralco Theater.

Enter the wardrobe door that leads straight into the world of Narnia. Experience the adventure of meeting the sinister white witch and the awesome lion-king Aslan.

Watch them as they battle each other for the ultimate triumph of good over the forces of evil.

Marvel as nature transform its cold and black winter into sunny spring right before your very eyes.

Welcome the talented cast led by Audie Gemora, Carlo Orosa, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Carla Martinez and Paolo Valenciano. Be entertained and awed by the spectacle as you listen to the ingenuous music written by an all-Filipino creative team.

For ticket inquiries, call 414-7404, 366-6233 or text (0916) 907-4718.

The Company returns to Hard Rock

THE VOCAL sextet The Company returns to Hard Rock Café (HRC) Makati after their successful stint at the venue last April and May. This time, the group is set to perform at HRC in all Thursdays of Sept. (8:30 p.m.)

Guests are in for an unforgettable night of fabulous songs as The Company dishes out home-grown hits, standard classics, pop favorites and cuts from their latest hit album, "Storybook."

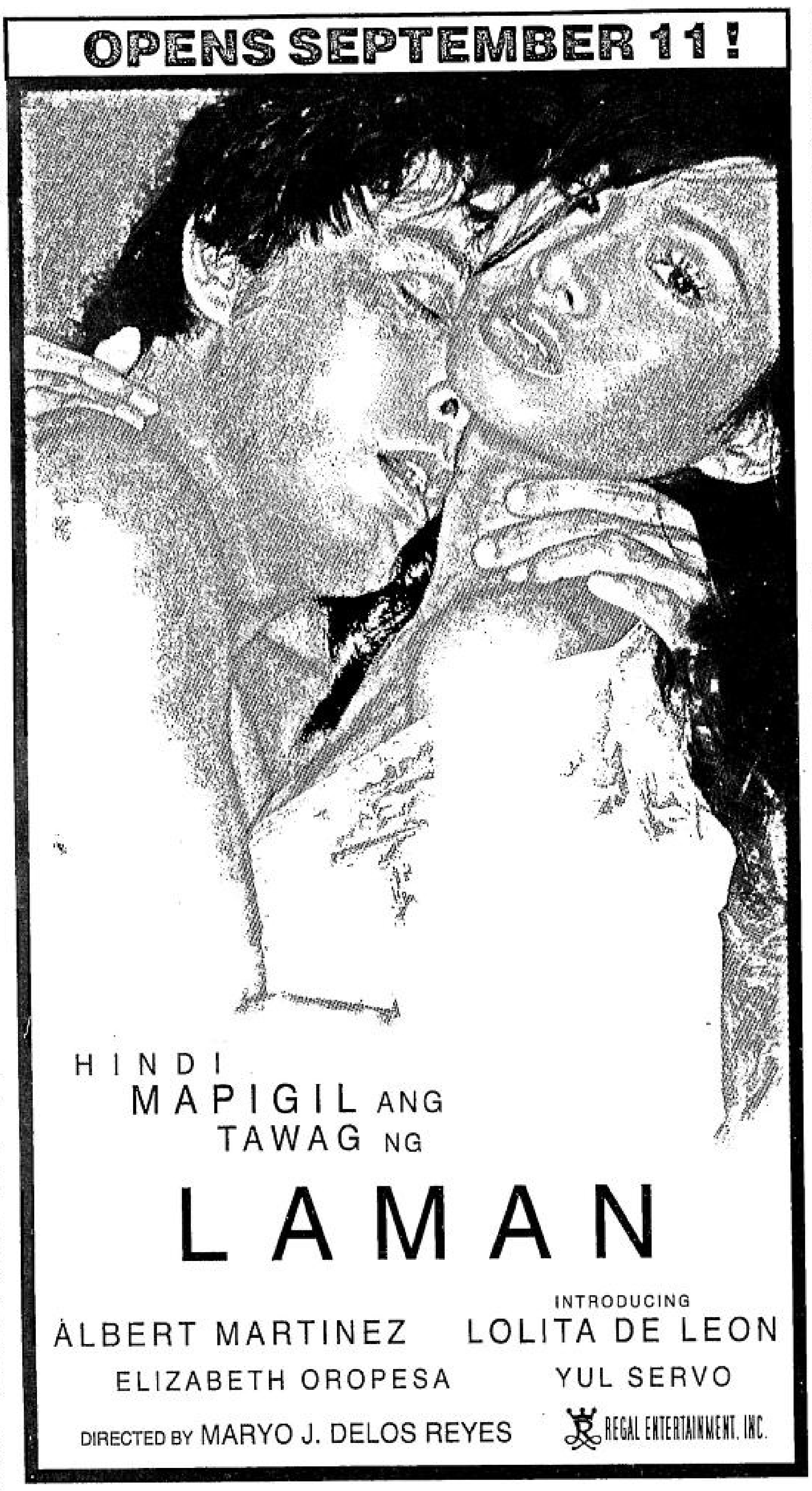
Fans can also look forward to a live rendition of the group's hit songs from "Storybook"—"Pag Nagkataon" (sung by Reuben Laurente) and "Baka Ikaw" (by Annie Quintos). Both songs are presently on the hit list of every major radio stations and are still rapidly gaining stronger popularity among pop music buffs.

The Company is a major force behind the growing strength of original materials in the local music industry.

Moy Ortiz, the group's prolific songwriter, has also written hits for Aiza Seguerra ("Pagdating ng Panahon") and Pops Pernandez ("Kaya Pala").

Mossimo and Lipton Ice Tea support The Company's show at HRC. Entrance is P300 (inclusive of two standard drinks).

For reservations, call HRC at 893-4661 to 64.



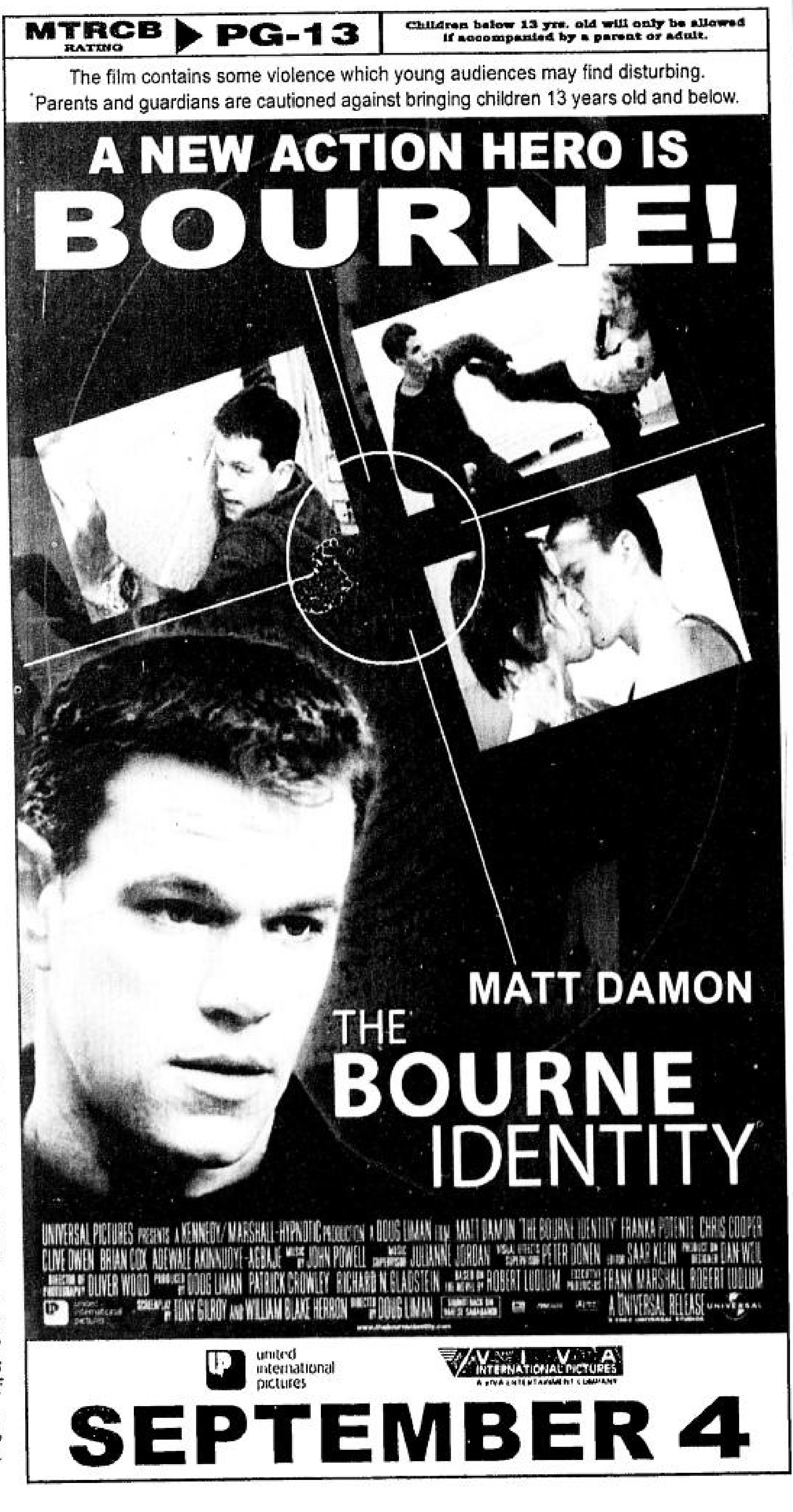
OPENS SEPTEMBER 11 !

HINDI
MAPIGIL ANG
TAWAG NG

LAMAN

ALBERT MARTINEZ
INTRODUCING LOLITA DE LEON
ELIZABETH OROPESA
YUL SERVO

DIRECTED BY MARYO J. DELOS REYES
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC.



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

The film contains some violence which young audiences may find disturbing.
Parents and guardians are cautioned against bringing children 13 years old and below.

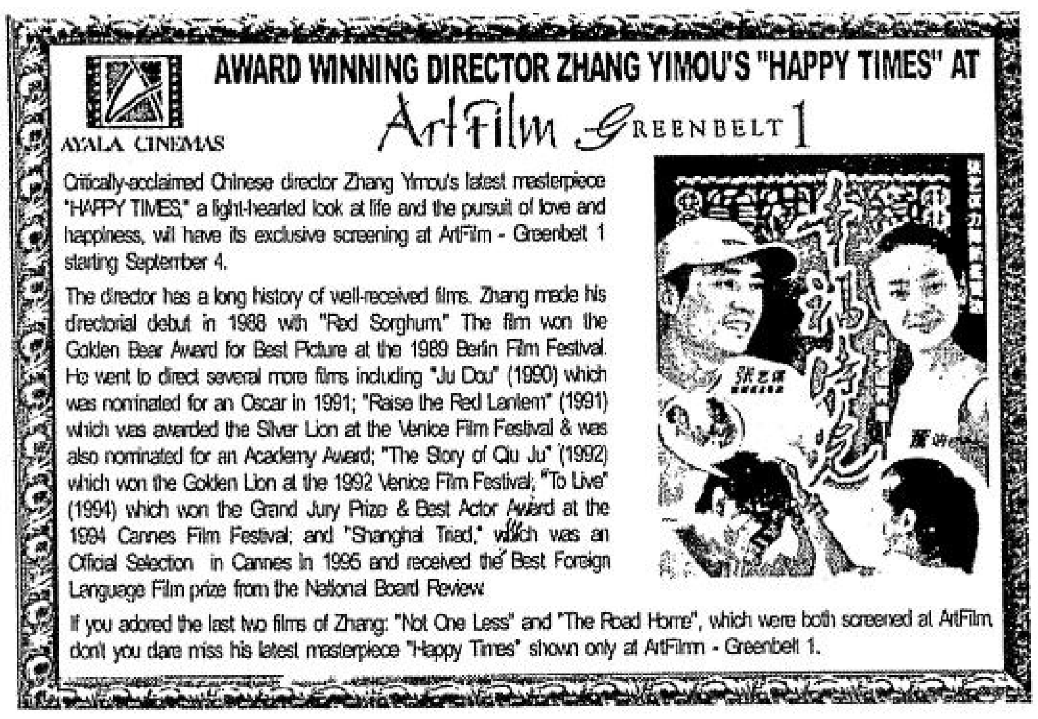
A NEW ACTION HERO IS
BOURNE!

MATT DAMON
THE BOURNE IDENTITY

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS A KENNEDY/MARSHALL-HYPNOTIC PRODUCTION A DOUG LIMAN FILM MATT DAMON "THE BOURNE IDENTITY" FRANKA POTENTE CHRIS COOPER CLIVE OWEN BRIAN COX ADEWALE AKINNUOYE-AGBAJE MUSIC BY JOHN POWELL MUSIC SUPERVISION JULIANNE JORDAN VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISION PETER DONEN EDITOR SAAR KLEIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER DAN WEIL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLIVER WOOD PRODUCED BY DOUG LIMAN PATRICK CROWLEY RICHARD N. GLADSTEIN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY ROBERT LUDLUM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FRANK MARSHALL ROBERT LUDLUM SCREENPLAY BY TONY GILROY AND WILLIAM BLAKE HERRON DIRECTED BY DOUG LIMAN
A UNIVERSAL RELEASE

united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

SEPTEMBER 4



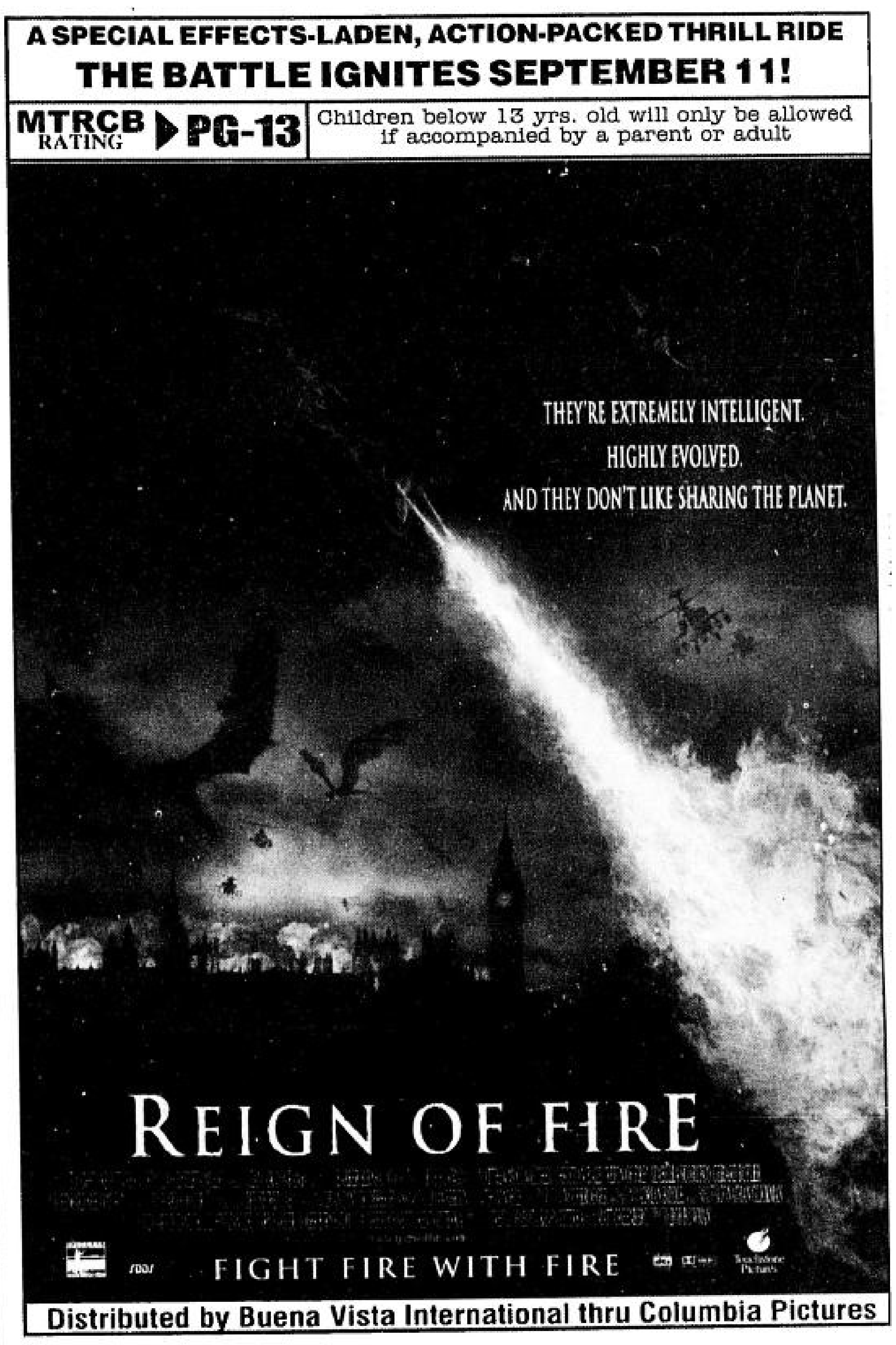
AYALA CINEMAS

AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR ZHANG YIMOU'S "HAPPY TIMES" AT
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

Critically-acclaimed Chinese director Zhang Yimou's latest masterpiece "HAPPY TIMES," a light-hearted look at life and the pursuit of love and happiness, will have its exclusive screening at ArtFilm - Greenbelt 1 starting September 4.

The director has a long history of well-received films. Zhang made his directorial debut in 1988 with "Red Sorghum." The film won the Golden Bear Award for Best Picture at the 1989 Berlin Film Festival. He went to direct several more films including "Ju Dou" (1990) which was nominated for an Oscar in 1991; "Raise the Red Lantern" (1991) which was awarded the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival & was also nominated for an Academy Award; "The Story of Qiu Ju" (1992) which won the Golden Lion at the 1992 Venice Film Festival; "To Live" (1994) which won the Grand Jury Prize & Best Actor Award at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival; and "Shanghai Triad," which was an Official Selection in Cannes in 1995 and received the Best Foreign Language Film prize from the National Board Review.

If you adored the last two films of Zhang: "Not One Less" and "The Road Home", which were both screened at ArtFilm, don't you dare miss his latest masterpiece "Happy Times" shown only at ArtFilm - Greenbelt 1.



A SPECIAL EFFECTS-LADEN, ACTION-PACKED THRILL RIDE
THE BATTLE IGNITES SEPTEMBER 11!

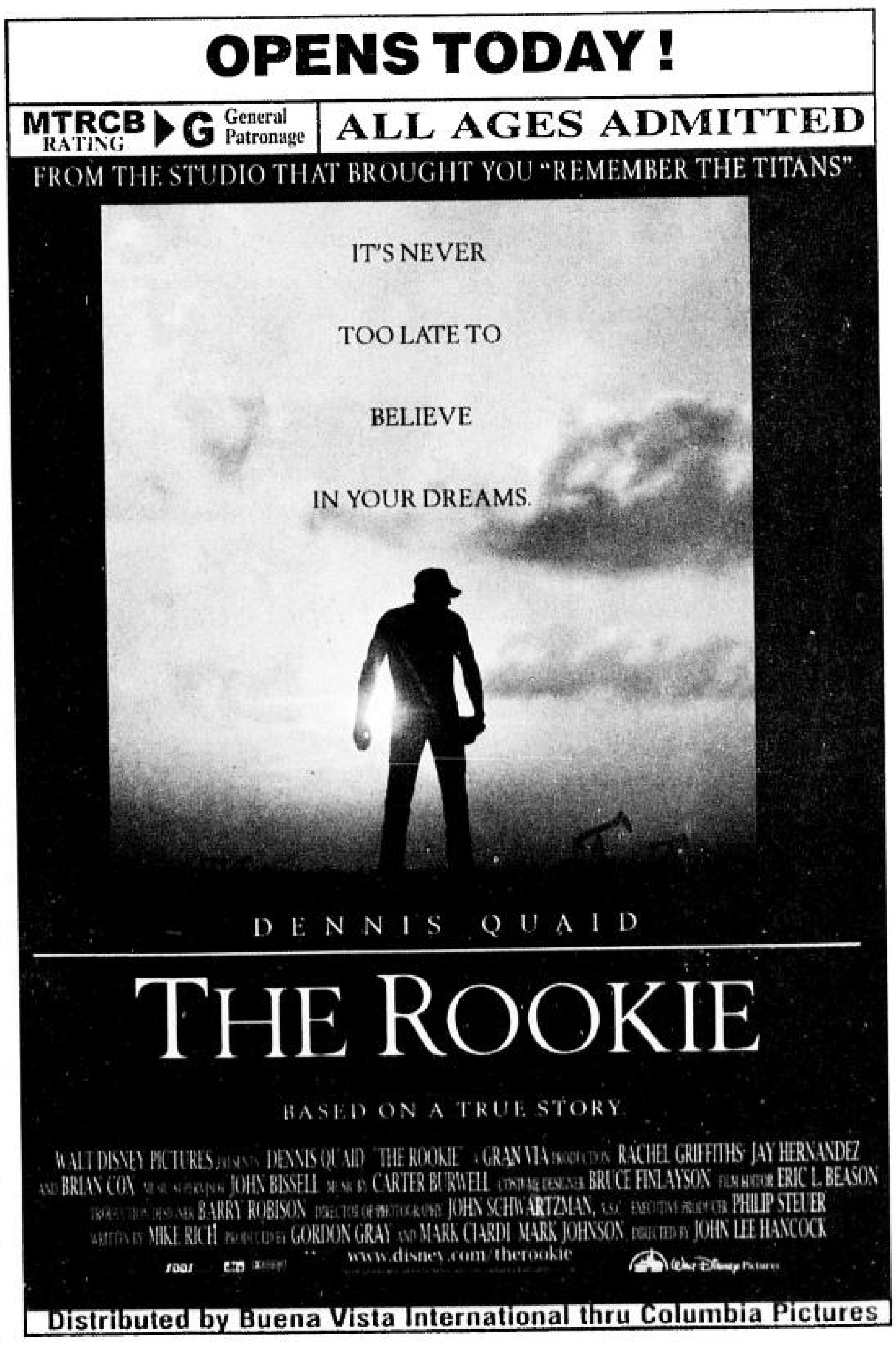
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THEY'RE EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT.
HIGHLY EVOLVED.
AND THEY DON'T LIKE SHARING THE PLANET.

REIGN OF FIRE

FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



OPENS TODAY !

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED

FROM THE STUDIO THAT BROUGHT YOU "REMEMBER THE TITANS"

IT'S NEVER
TOO LATE TO
BELIEVE
IN YOUR DREAMS.

DENNIS QUAID

THE ROOKIE

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS DENNIS QUAID "THE ROOKIE" A GRAN VIA PRODUCTION RACHEL GRIFFITHS JAY HERNANDEZ AND BRIAN COX MUSIC SUPERVISION JOHN BISSELL MUSIC BY CARTER BURWELL COSTUME DESIGNER BRUCE FINLAYSON FILM EDITOR ERIC L. BEASON PRODUCTION DESIGNER BARRY ROBISON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN SCHWARTZMAN, A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PHILIP STEUER WRITTEN BY MIKE RICH PRODUCED BY GORDON GRAY AND MARK CIARDI MARK JOHNSON DIRECTED BY JOHN LEE HANCOCK
www.disney.com/therookie
Walt Disney Pictures

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Can Allan K do an Edu with 'TWL'?

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN comedian **Allan K** replaced **Edu Manzano** as host of "The Weakest Link," many pro-Edu viewers predicted the eventual downfall of the game show. Edu left an indelible trademark to "The Weakest Link" and many thought he was irreplaceable.

It has been less than two months since Allan took over "The Weakest Link." Although it's still too early to tell if he could sustain the game show's popularity, Allan is clearly trying his best.

Allan can never be Edu. Viewers saw that from Allan's first day as host of "The Weakest Link." Thankfully, Allan didn't make any attempt to ape his predecessor. Otherwise, he would have paled in comparison.

What Allan did was bring his own brand of hosting, humor and wit to the show. Allan proved that he could also be likable and loveable like Edu.

"The Weakest Link" is a milestone in the career of the funnyman who has made his mark as host of other TV programs like "Eat Bulaga" and "Sing-Galing." His experience, confidence and wit, honed through the years he spent in sing-along joints, make him different from other TV show hosts.

It was during one of his stints as sing-along host in The Library in Malate that Allan was spotted by "Eat Bulaga" bigwigs, who gave him a break on TV. He joined the top-rating noontime show on GMA 7 and Allan's life was never the same again.

He teamed up with **Leonard Obal** in one of the country's most successful stand-up comedy acts, "Si Nura at si Velma," which had been repeated many times.

As host of "The Weakest Link," Allan joins the Viva-TV game show hosts—**Christopher de Leon** of "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" and **Regine Velasquez** of "Star for a Night."

"The Weakest Link" airs Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 p.m. on IBC 13.

Roño dad dies

CONDOLENCE to the family of director **Chito Roño**, whose father, **Jose Roño**, died last Friday at the family residence in Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

The wake is at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati.

Text message

I RECEIVED this forwarded text message which underscores the rivalry of the noontime shows "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7 and "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan" on ABS-CBN:

"*Ni*-raid *ni* **Bong Revilla** *ang* 'MTB' *sa pag-aakalang* pirated version *ito ng* 'Eat Bulaga.' Please pass *hanggang makarating kay* **Gabby Lopez**."

The message also mentions the aggressive anti-piracy campaign of Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) Chair Bong Revilla Jr. After successive raids in Metro Manila which yielded millions of pesos worth of fake video products, Bong is now scouring nearby provinces in Luzon.

The mere announcement of Bong's arrival is enough to send video pirates scampering away.

ALLAN K. Trying his best.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
BOURNE IDENTITY
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00
P13

CINEMA 2
SIGNS
P13

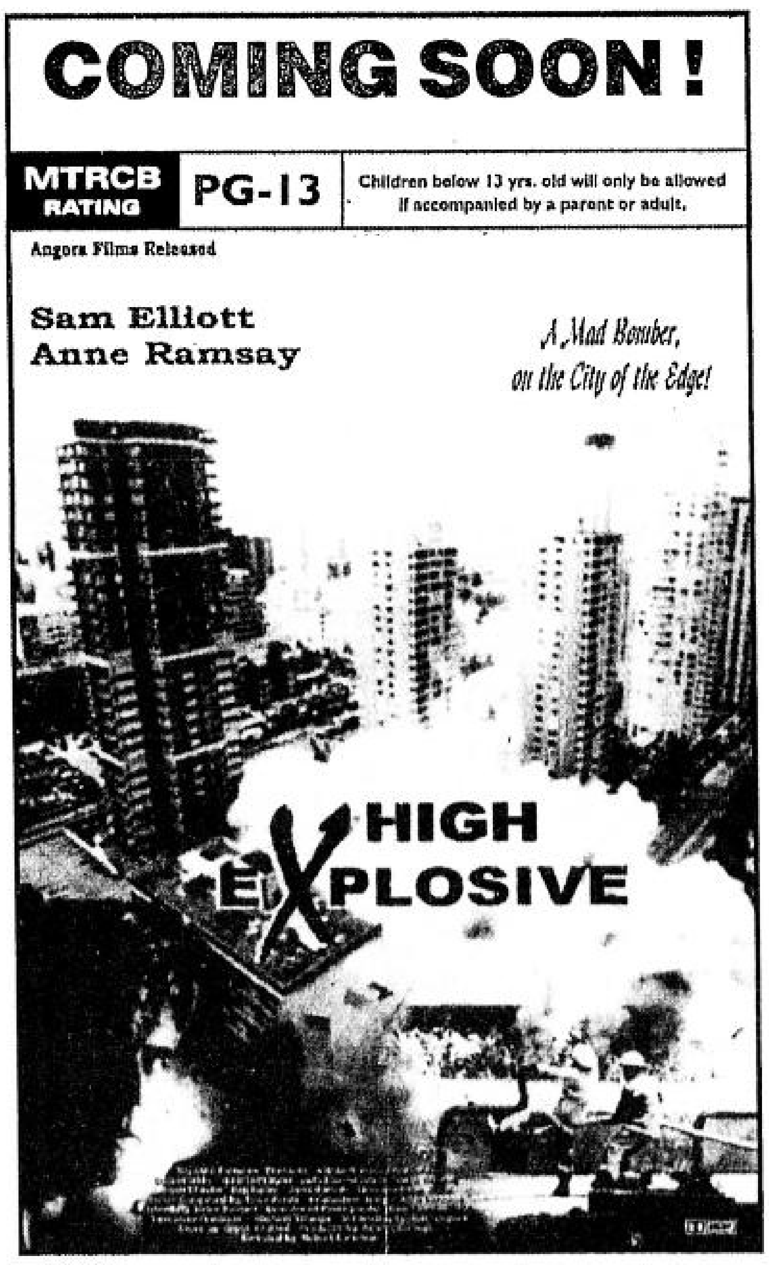
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
SEPTEMBER 7 & 14, 2002 YO SEXBOMB 9:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2002 70's 2DAY 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TRIPLE-X P13 12:00,2:20,4:40, 7:10,9:40	THE ROOKIE GP 1:00,3:50, 6:40, 9:30	AUSTIN POWERS P13 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:35,9:50
SIGNS P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:45,10:00	HIGH RISK P13 11:50,2:15,4:40, 7:05,9:30	BOURNE IDENTITY P13 11:50,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.



COMING SOON!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Angora Films Released
Sam Elliott
Anne Ramsay
A Mad Bomber, on the City of the Edge!
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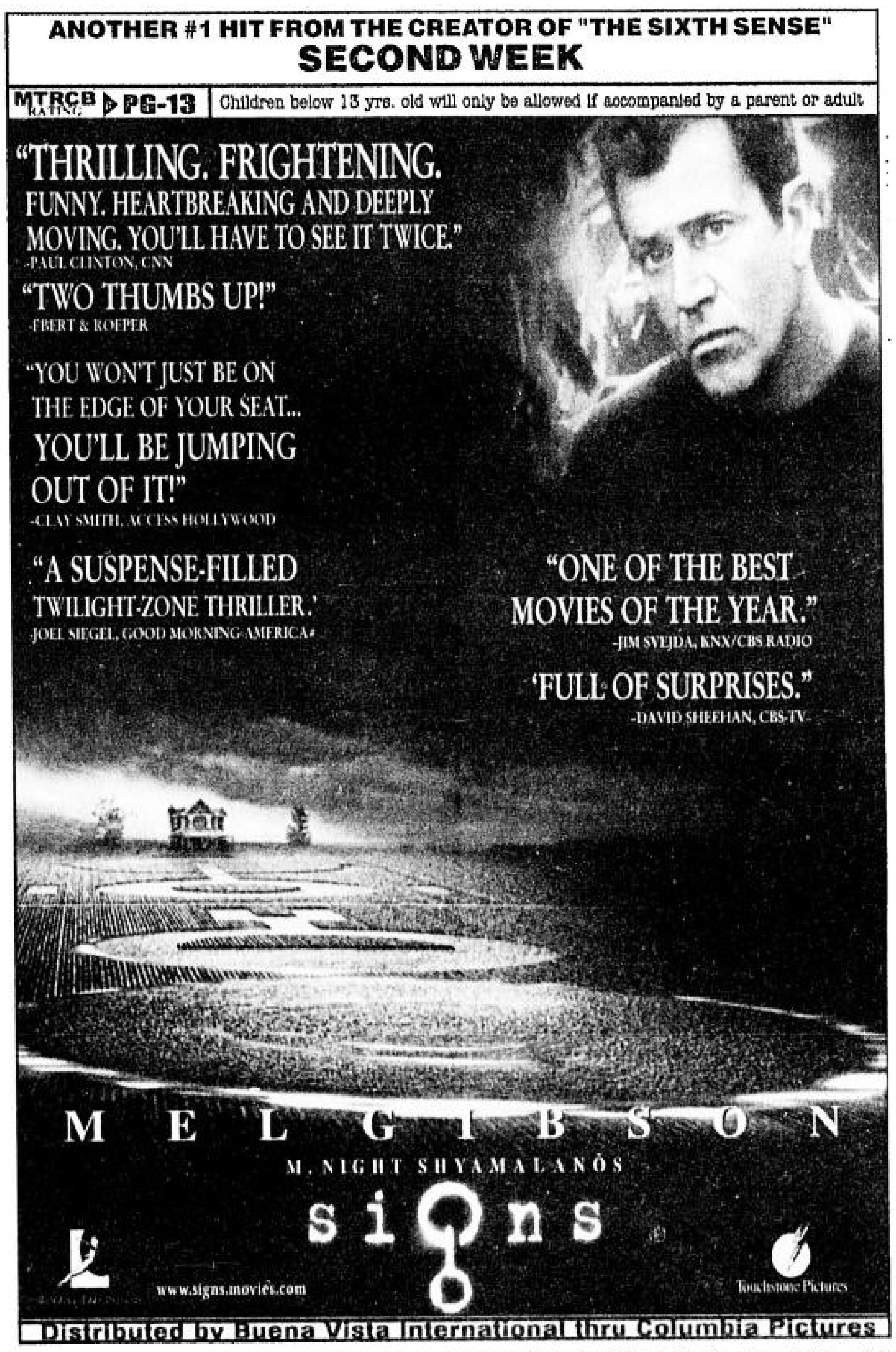
News that makes a difference

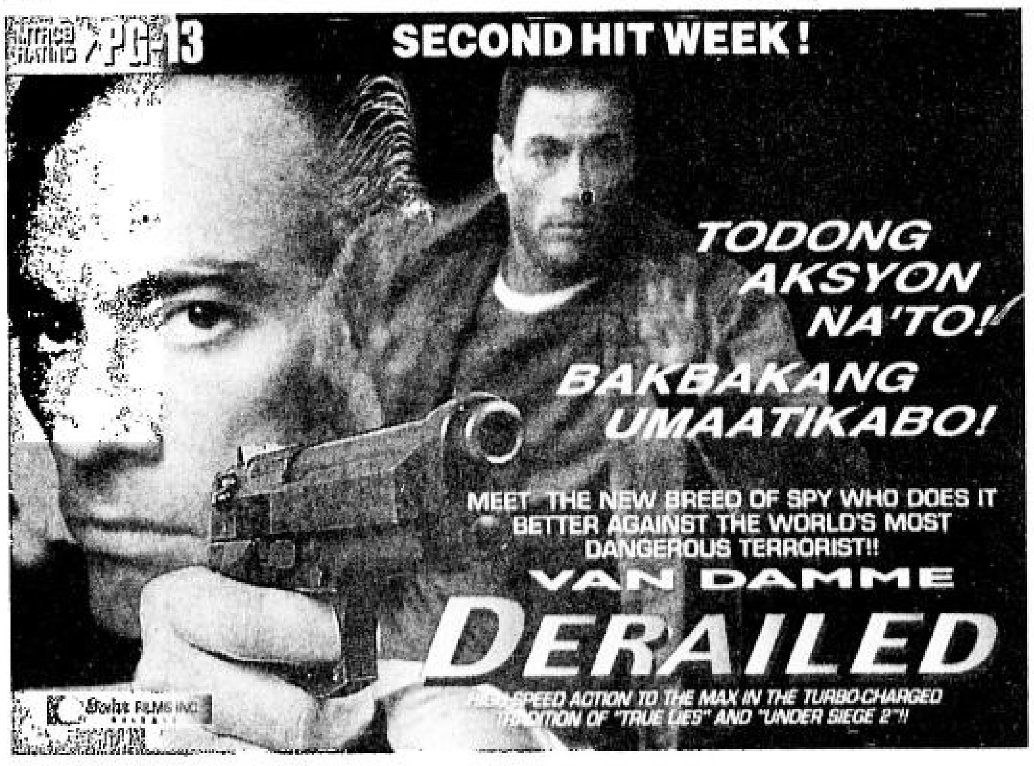
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOLOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HIGH RISK
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BAKAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAMPISAW / PHANTOM OF OPERA
ODEON	BOURNE IDENTITY
ODEON-2	RESIDENT EVIL / PILAK
ROBEN	BAKAT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	K-PAX / ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GAMITAN
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKAT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	636-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGA SAI 2002 LIFE, LOVE & LAUGHTER
CINEMA-2	AUTIN POWERS GOLD MEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKAT
CINEMA-2	DERAILED
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-8	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SIGNS
CINEMA-12	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-14	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	INSOMIA
CINEMA-2	SPIRIT
CINEMA-3	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-4	TRIPLE-X
CINEMA-5	DERAILED
CINEMA-6	SIGNS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SEI DA



ANOTHER #1 HIT FROM THE CREATOR OF "THE SIXTH SENSE"
SECOND WEEK
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"THRILLING. FRIGHTENING. FUNNY. HEARTBREAKING AND DEEPLY MOVING. YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE IT TWICE." -PAUL CLINTON, CNN
"TWO THUMBS UP!" -EBERT & ROEPER
"YOU WON'T JUST BE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT... YOU'LL BE JUMPING OUT OF IT!" -CLAY SMITH, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD
"A SUSPENSE-FILLED TWILIGHT-ZONE THRILLER.' -JOEL SIEGEL, GOOD MORNING AMERICA
"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF THE YEAR." -JIM SVEJDA, KNX/CBS RADIO
'FULL OF SURPRISES." -DAVID SHEEHAN, CBS-TV

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



MTRCB RATING PG-13
SECOND HIT WEEK!
TODONG AKSYON NA'TO!
BAKBAKANG UMAATIKABO!
MEET THE NEW BREED OF SPY WHO DOES IT BETTER AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS TERRORIST!!
VAN DAMME
DERAILED
HIGH-SPEED ACTION TO THE MAX IN THE TURBO-CHARGED TRADITION OF "TRUE LIES" AND "UNDER SIEGE 2"!!
Solar FILMS INC.

AYALA CINEMAS
Discover ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY
NOW SHOWING
The Yin-Yang Master,
Starring: Mansai Nomura, Hideaki Ito, Hiroyuki Sanada, Kyoko Koizumi, Eriko Imai, Directed by Yojiro Takita
Two noble families compete for the emperor's favors. In their quest for power, they enlist the Yin-Yang Masters, Seimei & Doson. But an unforseen evil takes hold of Doson who now wants the emperor's throne for himself. It will be up to Seimei to stop him.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG13)
SKYFILMS
NOKIA
INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Sitcoms forever

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DIFFERENT TV program formats may come and go, but the situation comedy remains a popular staple on both free and cable TV. What accounts for the program type's continuing success?

The humor, of course. But, more than that, the comic *situations*. And, best of all, the people to whom all these funny things are happening.

These sitcom characters practically become members of the viewer's family. They provide the conduit for the empathy that makes sitcom-viewing so comfortable and just-folks fun for all of us.

What is it about these sitcom characters that makes us want to see how they're coming along from week to week?

Way back in 1951, **Lucille Ball** established the basic premise: Her pioneering TV sitcom, "I love Lucy" wasn't all that different from other situation comedies about a wacky wife making life difficult for her loving but perpetually irritated husband. What made it special was its idiosyncratic characters.

Lucy Ricardo (Ball) was an American married to a Cuban bandleader, Ricky (**Desi Arnaz**). Since she was constantly trying to prove to him that she could be in show business too, he spent much of his time trying to keep Lucy off the stage and stay at home.

Their neighbors, bestfriends and landlords were Fred and Ethel Mertz. Lucy's partner in mischief was Ethel, and both Ricky and Fred had to embrace the foolishness perpetrated by their wives.

Cut forward many decades now to another very popular sitcom, "Seinfeld." Initially, this '90s hit may appear to be very different from Lucille Ball's show, but a closer look reveals that it is still a family situation comedy, except that it's now a family of friends.

It's even more personal because **Jerry Seinfeld** patterned the show after his own experiences, and those of his closest buddies.

Here again, the Lucille Ball inspiration is evident, with some adjustments: in real life, Lucille and Desi were also pretty similar to their TV sitcom characters.

The point is that viewers warm up to sitcom actors whose TV characters look natural to them.

In the new millenium, this preference for realism and believability has been further underscored by the "reality TV" trend.

The already thin line between fact and TV fiction has been obliterated by such hits as **Ozzy Osbourne**'s show, in which cameras ogle him and his family in their very home. How much more realistic and empathetic can you get?

Film bios

FIVE years after the tragic death, **Diana**, Princess of Wales has yet to be remembered with a film on her most memorable life. Instead, viewers have had to make-do with "The Biographer," which is about **Andrew Morton**, the man who wrote "Diana: Her True Story," the bestseller that shared the princess' pain with the rest of the world.

While Diana's unseen presence suffuses the CBS production, it's not so much about her as it is about Morton's travails as a result of writing the controversial book.

Another production, "Death of a Princess," is even farther removed from Diana. It is more focused on diverse people's reaction to her death at only 36 years old.

This is a pity, because the viewing public is raring to view an honest-to-goodness biographical film on Diana. And any number of actresses would be eager to play her on the big or small screen. Perhaps next year?

Meanwhile, **John F. Kennedy, Jr.** is faring much better in the film bio department: "America's Prince: The JFK Jr. Story," a TBS movie, is scheduled to air at the end of the year.

The title role will be played by TV actor **Kristoffer Polaha**. Other key players are **Tara Chocol** as **Daryl Hannah** (John, Jr.'s girlfriend), **Jacqueline Bisset** as **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis**, and **Portia de Rossi** as Kennedy's wife, **Carolyn (Kennedy)**.

On the local scene, we would love to see film bios on **Ninoy Aquino**, **Carmen Rosales**, **Rita Gomez** and **Manuel Quezon**.

Verni Varga performs at Hyatt's Calesa Bar

THE INIMITABLE Verni Varga sets the evening on fire with special shows on Sept. 13 and 20 (Fridays) at Calesa Music Bar and Lounge.

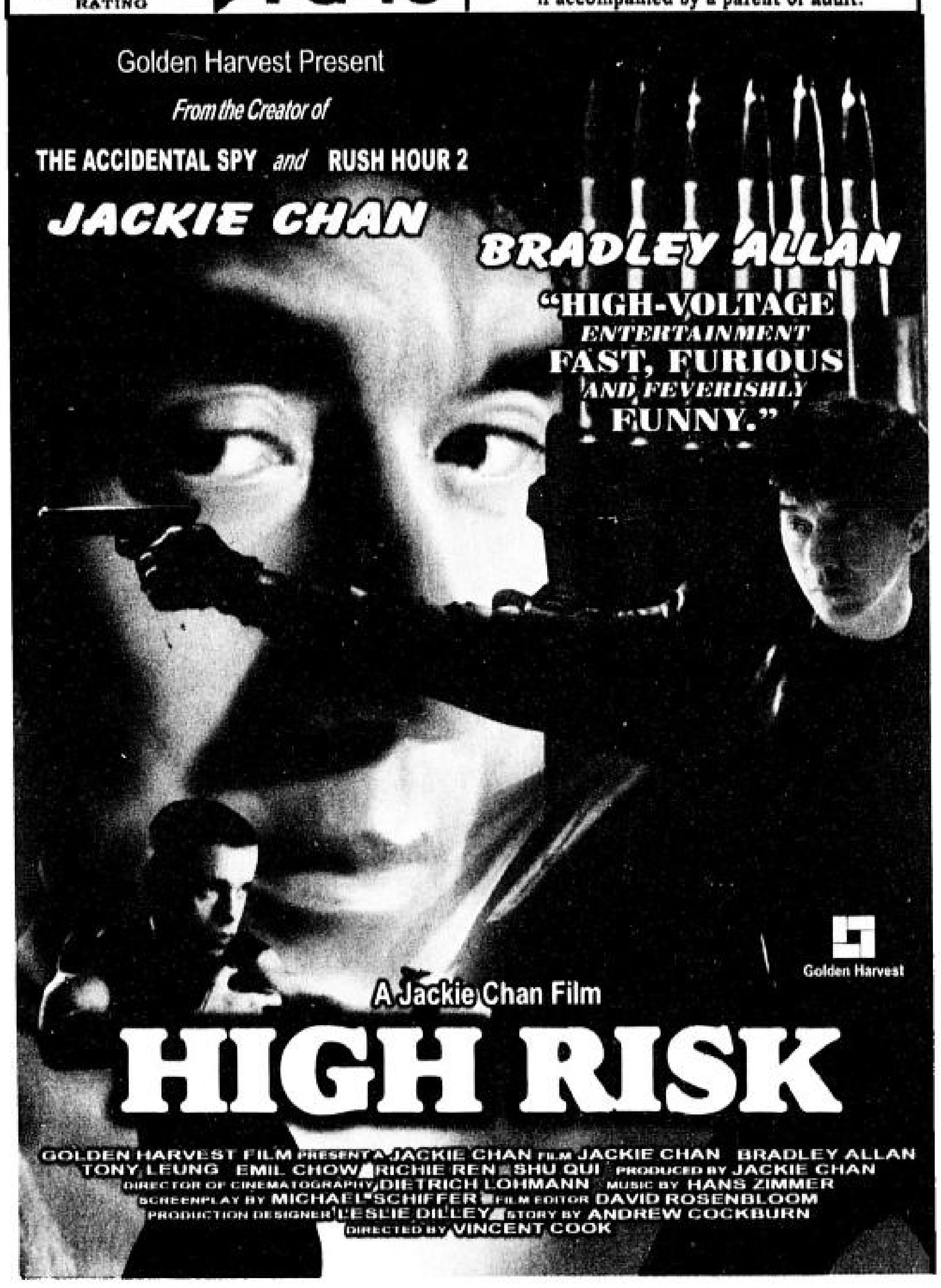
Verni is one of the most popular stars who spent the early years of her career under the tutelage of Rudy Francisco, Calesa's entertainment director and resident pianist, who is celebrating his 35th anniversary with Hyatt Regency Manila in March, 2003.

Although Verni could very well give up her career to concentrate on her family, the continuous invitations for singing engagements have kept her in the limelight.

VARGA

Her special shows at Calesa Music Bar and Lounge are presented by Philippine Wine Merchants, and is the second in the divas concert series leading up to Francisco's anniversary bash in March next year.

OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.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From the Creator of
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Golden Harvest
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HIGH RISK
GOLDEN HARVEST FILM PRESENT A JACKIE CHAN FILM JACKIE CHAN BRADLEY ALLAN
TONY LEUNG EMIL CHOW RICHIE REN SHU QUI PRODUCED BY JACKIE CHAN
DIRECTOR OF CINEMATOGRAPHY DIETRICH LOHMANN MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER
SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL SCHIFFER FILM EDITOR DAVID ROSENBLOOM
PRODUCTION DESIGNER LESLIE DILLEY STORY BY ANDREW COCKBURN
DIRECTED BY VINCENT COOK

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
NOW SHOWING
From the award-winning director of Raise the Red Lantern, Not One Less and The Road Home
HAPPY TIMES
a film by ZHANG YIMOU
Based on the Novella by MO YAN "Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh"

"Worth watching for Dong Jie's performance – and for the way it documents a culture in the throes of rapid change."
– *Jonathan Foreman, NEW YORK POST*

"An engaging and specific portrait of a culture in transition, even as it evokes humanity's most universal and timeless values."
– *Ann Hornaday, WASHINGTON POST*

"Zhang makes a powerful statement about modern-day China."
– *Maria Garcia, FILM JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL*

"Endows humanist cinema with a heroic moral dimension."
– *Andrew Sarris, NEW YORK OBSERVER*

"This is a film that blends darkness and light, laughter and tears – expertly and with love."
– *Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

"Simultaneously poignant, engagingly funny and bittersweet, it mixes its elements in a way that is completely its own."
– *Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES*

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

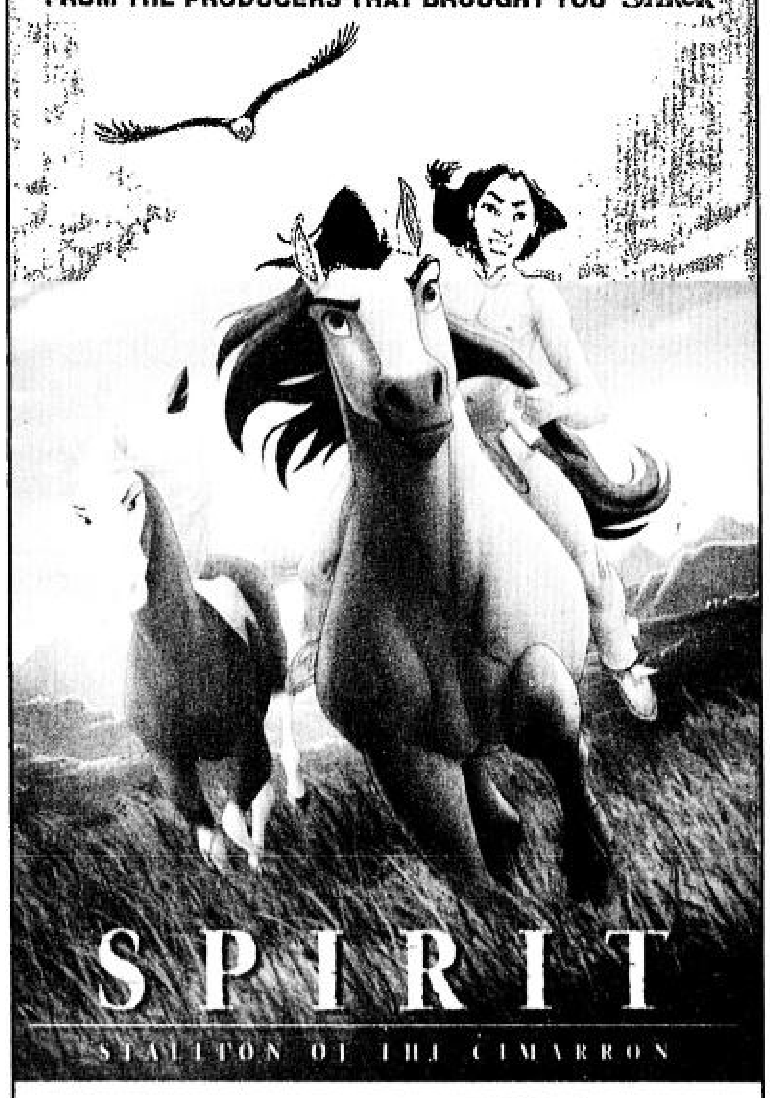
NOKIA AYALA CINEMAS INQUIRER

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Maui Taylor
1st LOVE KISS TIME HIT
Gamitan
directed by QUARK HENARES
VIVA

FIRST PA RIN SA TAKILYA! NOW SHOWING!

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage All Ages Admitted
FROM THE PRODUCERS THAT BROUGHT YOU SHREK


SPIRIT
STALLION OF THE CIMARRON

NOW SHOWING! VIVA

SEE IN PERSON THE ATTRACTIVE STARS OF "BAKAT" DIANA ZUBIRI WITH RODEL VELAYO AT THE FOLLOWING THEATERS: SEPT. 4, WED, TODAY
SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 11:00AM
SM CITY MANILA 1:00PM
SM CENTERPOINT 2:00PM
SM CITY NORTH EDSA 3:00PM
SM MEGAMALL 5:00PM

OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

ANG KASAYSAYAN NG ISANG BABAENG NAWAWALA SA SARILI!

RITA AVILA TOMMY ABUEL DARIA RAMIREZ
ANA CAPRI RODEL VELAYO
and DIANA ZUBIRI
Lualhati Bautista's
BAKAT
Co-Starring NOY CONFIADO EDWIN REYES
SEIKO Films presentation
directed by FRANCIS 'JUN' POSADAS

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

World-class banking in the Philippines since 1872.
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House OKs bill to privatize Napocor transmission lines

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Ronnel W. Domingo

BY A VOTE of 112-25, the House finally approved the bill seeking to privatize the power transmission lines of National Power Corp.

House Bill No. 4882, which grants a 50-year franchise to the National Transmission Co., was approved at 6:09 a.m. yesterday after a marathon 14-hour session that began Monday night.

The House also passed the bill creating a Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) in what the Speaker described as "democracy at its finest."

The franchise bill, which is expected to raise at least $2 billion and help reduce the purchased power adjustment (PPA), was approved just before the Senate and the House adjourns on Friday for a four-week recess.

It remains unclear if the Senate can approve the bill, which originates in the House, before the recess to enable the President to sign it immediately into law.

President Macapagal-Arroyo called up Speaker Jose de Venecia to thank him for the passage of one of her priority measures.

The President reiterated that the passage of the Transco franchise bill would show that the country still has a functioning economy.

De Venecia shepherded the passage of the bill even as the House minority, led by Rep. Carlos Padilla, tried to pose objections.

De Venecia said the bill sends a strong message to international investors that the executive and legislative can get their acts together to create a favorable investment climate.

HOUSE/ B4

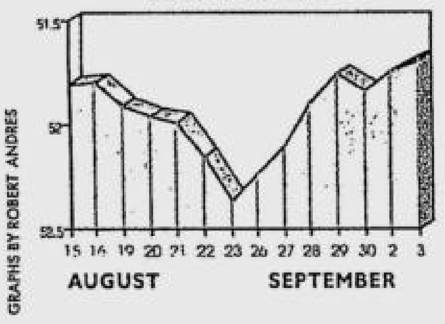
ABS-CBN signs ₱3.5-B deal; 2 banks declare firm in default

/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.69 = $1

As of 5 p.m. Sept. 4, 2002

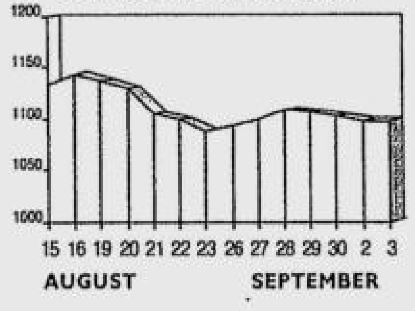
¥ 117.62 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,Sept. 16, 2002

GOLD: $312.60/313.10

per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 16, 2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Shares end flat

SHARES ended little changed yesterday as investors largely shunned the market in the absence of fresh positive news, traders said.

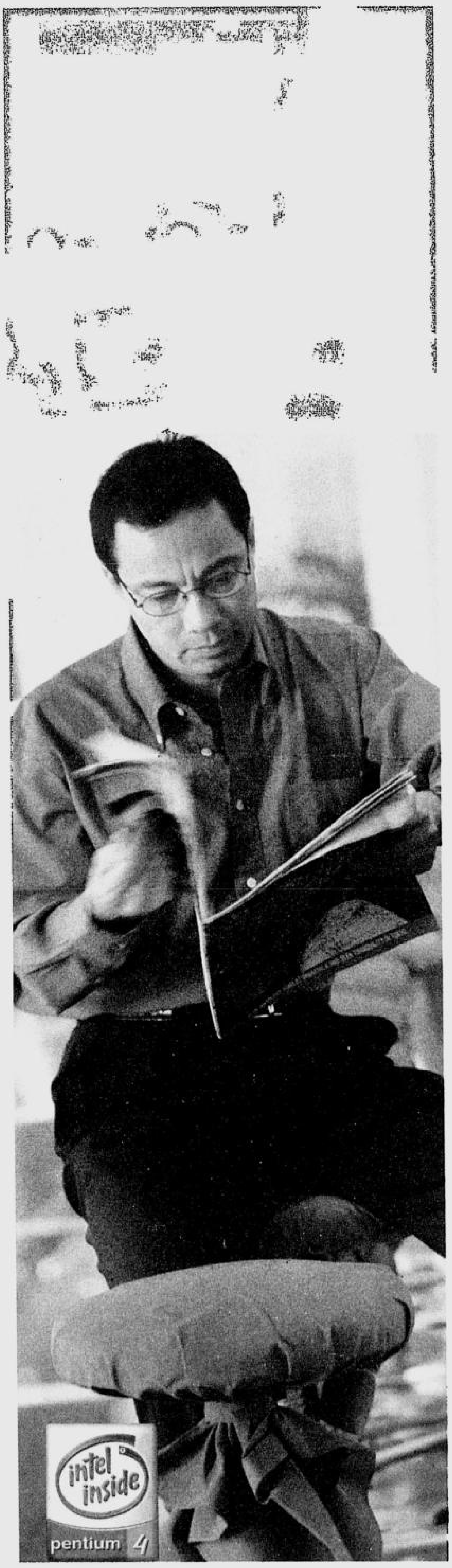
They added that the upbeat view of the economy delivered by the government's economic managers in briefings to the media and the investment community on Monday was largely ignored.

The managers said the country's economic fundamentals remained sound and projected the economy to grow between 3.9 and 4.9 percent year-on-year in the second half.

The main index closed down 0.20 of a point, or 0.02 percent, at 1,098.09.

Turnover reached P294.35 million from P224.05 million on Monday.

Advancers led decliners 29 to 15. *Reuters*



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- Marc Ablaza, *Baguio*

DIESEL MAX
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ABS-CBN signs P3.5-B debt deal; 2 banks declare firm in default

By Elena R. Torrijos

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. signed on Monday and Tuesday a refinancing agreement with majority of its short-term creditors covering P3.5 billion out of nearly P3.8 billion in short-term outstanding debt.

However, two of the 15 short-term creditors are not joining the deal and have declared the leading broadcast firm in default of roughly P280 million in debts.

Standard Chartered Bank and BNP Paribas last Friday sent ABS-CBN notices of default on P100 million and $3.6 million of outstanding short-term debts, respectively, after the media group ignored their earlier demand for full payment.

The debts to the two banks represented 7 percent of ABS-CBN's total short-term debts covered by the refinancing deal and one percent of its total consolidated assets, ABS-CBN said in a statement.

An official of the broadcasting firm said yesterday it has refused to pay the creditors given that the company has signed a refinancing agreement with the other short-term creditors and payment would violate the terms of the new agreement.

The ABS-CBN notes with a 5-year maturity and carrying market rates will be exchangeable into bonds that the company plans to launch in the next few months.

"As we've put in our disclosure, they've actually asked to be paid, but we are not in a position to do so at the moment because we have to follow the terms of the payment as agreed with majority of our creditors," ABS-CBN vice president for finance Randolph Estrellado said in a statement.

"All creditors get paid on the same basis, no one gets paid separately from anyone else," Estrellado said.

He stressed that as a result of the exchange facility agreement, the short-term creditors benefit because they would now shift from a clean or non-securitized position to a secured position.

"The exchange notes are secured by our fixed assets and once we list the bonds they will become tradeable instruments and if they want to they can sell them to the market," Estrellado said.

It was not clear whether or not the action of the two creditors to declare ABS-CBN in default would scuttle the agreement with the majority of the short-term creditors.

One banker explained that ABS-CBN has encountered difficulty repaying its short-term creditors because of the bunching up of maturing obligations, decline in revenue and the fallout from the financial distress of majority shareholder Benpres Holdings Corp., the flagship holding company of the Lopez family, and other Lopez-owned companies.

Estrellado said ABS-CBN's profit this year would likely drop from last year's P1.483 billion because of lower advertising spending and depreciation costs.

PSE to speed up processing of IPO applications

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has vowed to speed up by more than 40 percent the processing of applications for new initial public offerings as part of reforms to improve governance as a demutualized organization.

In a recent press briefing, PSE listing department head Ma. Isabel Garcia said the local bourse would shorten the processing period and thus fast-track the listing process for companies embarking on a public debut.

"From our process, we are given 45 trading days from the time the company submitted its application to finish the processing and present it to the listing committee. We'll try to shorten it by 20 trading days," Garcia said.

Given an average of 21 trading days in each month, this means that the processing of IPO applications by the PSE could be shortened to only about a month.

By cutting down the PSE's own processing, Garcia said that a public listing could take place within 59 trading days after a company submitted its application.

"Currently, the listing usually takes place only after 84 trading days," she said.

The faster IPO application processing aims to make it easier for companies to capture market opportunities.

There are so far five companies which listed on the PSE this year: Citystate Savings Bank, Salcon Power Corp., Highlands Prime Inc., Banco de Oro Universal Bank and Jolliville Holdings Corp.

The PSE was originally hoping to see 10 to 12 public listings this year but things turned gloomy when trading volumes again shrunk to all-time lows starting the second semester of the year.

Sony Ericsson

SONY ERICSSON LAUNCHES RP OPERATION

Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications International AB, the joint venture of telecom giant Ericsson and electronics consumer powerhouse Sony Corp., officially launched its Philippine operations last Friday. The company that pioneered the colored display and Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) in a handset with its T68i presented a lineup of its latest mobile phone offerings. At the launch are (from left): area sales director for Asia Pacific Ulf Jervinge, vice president for marketing Claes Svensson, general manager Dennis A. Manzano, senior marketing manager Tay Poh Lin, and product marketing manager for Asia Pacific Peter Ang.

LATE DISCLOSURE

Bourse reviews JG Summit fines

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has agreed to review the fines slapped against JG Summit Holdings Corp. over alleged disclosure violations, but maintained that it would not bend its own rules.

"We are prepared to listen to the justifications given without compromising the rules," PSE director and listing committee co-chair Peter Favila said after a meeting with JG Summit representatives yesterday.

After hearing the JG Summit group, Favila said the PSE management was now tasked to review the matter and submit a recommendation to the PSE board within the next two weeks.

"Maybe in due time we can come up with a less contentious set of rules. A lot of companies are being fined and it has become a matter of procedure," Favila said.

The PSE earlier announced that it was willing to focus on nonmonetary rather than monetary sanctions to improve compliance on disclosure rules.

Favila also clarified that the PSE had never discussed anything about the delisting of JG Summit.

The dispute erupted over the fines slapped by the PSE against JG Summit for the late filing of clarification on June 19 after the First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong disclosed in the United States that JG Summit was a party to the memorandum of agreement.

The trading of JG Summit shares were halted at 11 a.m. but JG Summit's clarification was filed only at 3 p.m. The Gokongweis' holding firm argued that it was not informed of the trading halt and needed some time to consult with foreign legal counsel.

The PSE slapped JG Summit with a basic fine of P30,000 plus P1,000 for each day of delay. Total charges have now reached about P80,000, but this was being contested by JG Summit, which insisted that it would have been impossible to reply sooner.

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7. The Federal-Parliamentary System as an Alternative to the Existing Presidential Form of Government	6	Law Reform
TOTAL	36	

A few more slots available for the daily sessions. 10% discount for paid registration on or before September 14, 2002. Please contact Ms. Lites Viloria or Ms. Donna Mendoza of the Institute of Continuing Legal Studies and Education, 2nd Floor, Ocampo Heritage Bldg., 214 Wilson St. San Juan, Metro Manila Telefaxes: 7213470 / 7251481 / 7220432 and /or email us at ocampolaw@mydestiny.net

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, September 3, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	183,900
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	95	95	95	95	600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	44	42.5	43.5	1,818,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28.5	28	28	99,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	33.5	32.5	32.5	1,269,300
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	1,600
Security Bank Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.31	0.35	0.31	0.35	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1180	1180	1170	1180	1,370
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	905	905	905	905	980
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	23	22.5	23	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.52	570,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	487.5	487.5	485	485	4,860
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.027	0.031	0.027	0.03	8,900,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	285	280	282.5	89,450
Ivantage Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	7,100
Manila Electric Co. B	30	31	30	31	100,800
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	1,624,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	74,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	66,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	665,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	1,100
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	83,500
San Miguel Corp. B	52	52	52	52	230,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4,646,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	75,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	1,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	730,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	163,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	13	643,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	700,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	60,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	230,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	140,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	15,950,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	140,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	110,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.73	0.82	0.73	0.82	40,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	4,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	40,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.25	23.25	22.25	23.25	213,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	1110	1115	1110	1115	32,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	10,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	2,103,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	80,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	1,850,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.96	655,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	298,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	2,400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.99	450,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	4,357,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	32,000,00
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,00
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,00
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	750,00
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	3,110,00
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	18,000,00
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	6,000,00
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,00

DISCLOSURES

SM Prime Holdings Inc. confirmed it was negotiating with Clark Development Corp. to lease an area for a shopping center development in Clark special economic zone but there are no definite terms and conditions yet.

* * *

ZEUS Holdings Inc. disclosed the resignation of Federico Cadiz as director of the company.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Basic Consolidated Inc. were Oscar de Venecia, Sergio Locsin, Ramon Mayuga, Prudencio Somera Jr., Ramon Mapa, Fernando Gaite Jr., Isidoro Tan, Francis Chua and Ernesto Salas. Elected independent directors were Rufino Antonio Mijares and Eusebio Tanco.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Gaming Management Corp., the wholly owned subsidiary of Prime Gaming Philippines Inc., will issue P60 million worth of cash dividends from its unrestricted retained earnings.

* * *

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. announced the resignation of Eduardo Ortigas as director of the company. Elected to replace him was Andrew Tiike.

* * *

EDUARDO Plana shall serve as compliance officer of Security Bank Corp., Security Finance Inc., Security Land Inc. and SB Forex Inc. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 3, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.017812	1.000000	51.8640
Japan	Yen	0.008598	0.008448	0.4381
United Kingdom	Pound	1.578321	1.550700	80.4255
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130491	0.128207	6.6493
Switzerland	Franc	0.679946	0.668047	34.6476
Canada	Dollar	0.653155	0.641725	33.2824
Singapore	Dollar	0.581939	0.571755	29.6535
Australia	Dollar	0.559391	0.549602	28.5046
Bahrain	Dinar	2.700052	2.652801	137.5849
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271410	0.266660	13.8301
Brunei	Dollar	0.579983	0.569833	29.5538
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024136	0.023714	1.2299
UAE	Dirham	0.277129	0.272279	14.1215
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000839	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.982500	50.9564
Argentina	Real	0.281163	0.276243	14.3271
Brazil	Real	0.336578	0.330688	17.1508
Denmark	Kroner	0.134676	0.132319	6.8626
India	Rupee	0.021021	0.020653	1.0711
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267881	0.263193	13.6502
Mexico	New Peso	0.102489	0.100695	5.2224
New Zealand	Dollar	0.475925	0.467596	24.2514
Norway	Kroner	0.135110	0.132746	6.8847
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017193	0.016892	0.8761
South Africa	Rand	0.096889	0.095193	4 9371
Sweden	Kroner	0.108501	0.106602	5.5288
Syria	Pound	0.023027	0.022624	1.1734
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029813	0.029291	1.5191
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000721	0.000708	0.0367

Steel firms blink, now seek partial ban on junks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HOPING to pacify junk dealers, the Philippine Steelmakers Association clarified yesterday that it was pushing for a partial—not a total—export ban on scrap metal.

In an interview, a PSA spokesperson said the group was pushing for an export ban on steel or ferrous metals, such as cast iron and stainless steel, that they were using as raw materials for their operations. The proposed ban would exclude non-ferrous metals such as copper and tin.

The Metro Manila Federation of Environmental Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MMFEMPC), a group of 572 junk shop dealers in Metro Manila, said it was supporting an export ban as long as non-ferrous metals were excluded.

The MMFEMPC said it had been working with steel firms and metal casters for years, and that a price setting arrangement would keep prices of scrap metal stable.

The PSA has been asking the Department of Trade and Industry to ban the export of scrap metals to force junk dealers to sell their goods only to local players.

It has drafted a memorandum of agreement that will require scrap sellers to sell up to 800,000 metric tons annually to local scrap buyers at a price range of P3.80 to P4.80 per kilogram versus the export price of P5 to P6.

Junkyard dealers have denounced efforts to prevent them from selling their products abroad and to fix the prices of scrap metal.

At least 200 junkyard firms under the Scrap Collector and Recycler Association of the Philippines (Scrap) are opposing the PSA-proposed ban, saying it will prevent them from exporting scrap metal and will only allow steel companies like Cathay Pacific Steel Co. to dictate prices.

Scrap insists that junk dealers get more from scrap metal buyers from South Korea and Japan, who buy at P6 per kilogram, than from steel firms here.

Local companies not only pay less but also pay longer, apart from being very picky, it said.

Junk dealers have complained that they are forced to wait for up to six months to get their money, and that local steel makers do not buy galvanized iron sheets and tin cans.

San Miguel seen posting 20% hike in 7-mo. income

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN Miguel Corp. is seen posting a 20-percent increase in revenues in the first seven months of the year.

Company sources told the INQUIRER that the 3.8 -percent rise in consumer spending in the second quarter of the year shored up the sales volume of most of San Miguel's products.

In July alone, the number of beers sold by the country's brewers reportedly rose by about 12 percent year-on-year.

In San Miguel's case, sales volume was forecast to have gained 3 percent from January to July this year, with beer volume rising 5 percent.

San Miguel unit Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. was expected to have also sold more in July compared to a year ago.

Sales volume of San Miguel's chicken business was also seen higher by 20 percent in July and by 33 percent since the start of the year.

With its acquisition of CCBPI, Cosmos Bottling Corp. and PureFoods Corp., San Miguel has stepped up its efforts to boost volume and enhance operational efficiencies.

San Miguel, the country's biggest food and beverage firm, posted an expected decline in net profit in 2001 as costs from major acquisitions ate into its bottom line.

The company, known internationally for its trademark beer, said its 2001 net income was at P6.5 billion, down from the P6.84 billion recurring net profit posted in the previous year.

It said its net income would have been at P7.3 billion without the costs of acquiring a majority stake in CCBPC and taking over Pure Foods.

Smart, SSS agree to set up cell phone info service

SMART Communications Inc. has signed an agreement allowing members of the Social Security System to access their contribution records and loan transactions using their mobile phones.

The "SSS Info Text Service" lets Smart subscribers access their SSS records by sending text messages to a Smart hotline.

Using only their cell phones, SSS members can currently get information on their contributions.

With the new service, SSS members using Smart handsets can now get information about their loans, including check numbers, check dates and monthly dues.

To use the service, Smart subscribers will have to register by keying in "SSS reg," their 10-digit SSS number, their date of birth following the "MMDDYYYY" format and their gender, and sending these information to "288."

Registered members can then access member information by keying in "SSS contri" for contribution records, "SSS slstat" or "SSS salstat" for salary loan status and "SSS loan" for loan account information.

For registration and for each service access request, subscribers will be charged P2.50.

The "SSS Info Text Service" was developed by wireless application service provider WolfPac Communications Inc. for SSS members too busy to go to an SSS branch to check the status of their loans or the total amount of their contribution. *Abigail L. Ho*

Smart, Globe to pursue bid for mobile phone frequency

SMART Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. refused yesterday to give way to Express Telecommunications Co. Inc.'s bid to provide mobile communication services.

Spokespersons for the two companies said Smart and Globe would pursue their applications for 5 megahertz of cellular frequency.

Globe assistant vice president for legal affairs Froilan Castelo said in an interview that the company was not about to give way to Extelcom's request that they settle the frequency issue among themselves.

"There's no earnest effort on their part to follow it up. We've discussed it before but not that seriously. I'm standing by my application. I want that five megahertz," he said.

The National Telecommunications Commission earlier asked Smart, Globe and Extelcom to work on a settlement rather than engage in a bidding war.

"We're giving them time to talk among themselves, but we're also studying how we'll conduct the bidding. The NTC has no experience in this, so we're still studying how we'll set the guidelines," NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview.

Among the three, only Extelcom has yet to offer mobile phone services using the global system for mobile communications platform. *Abigail L. Ho*

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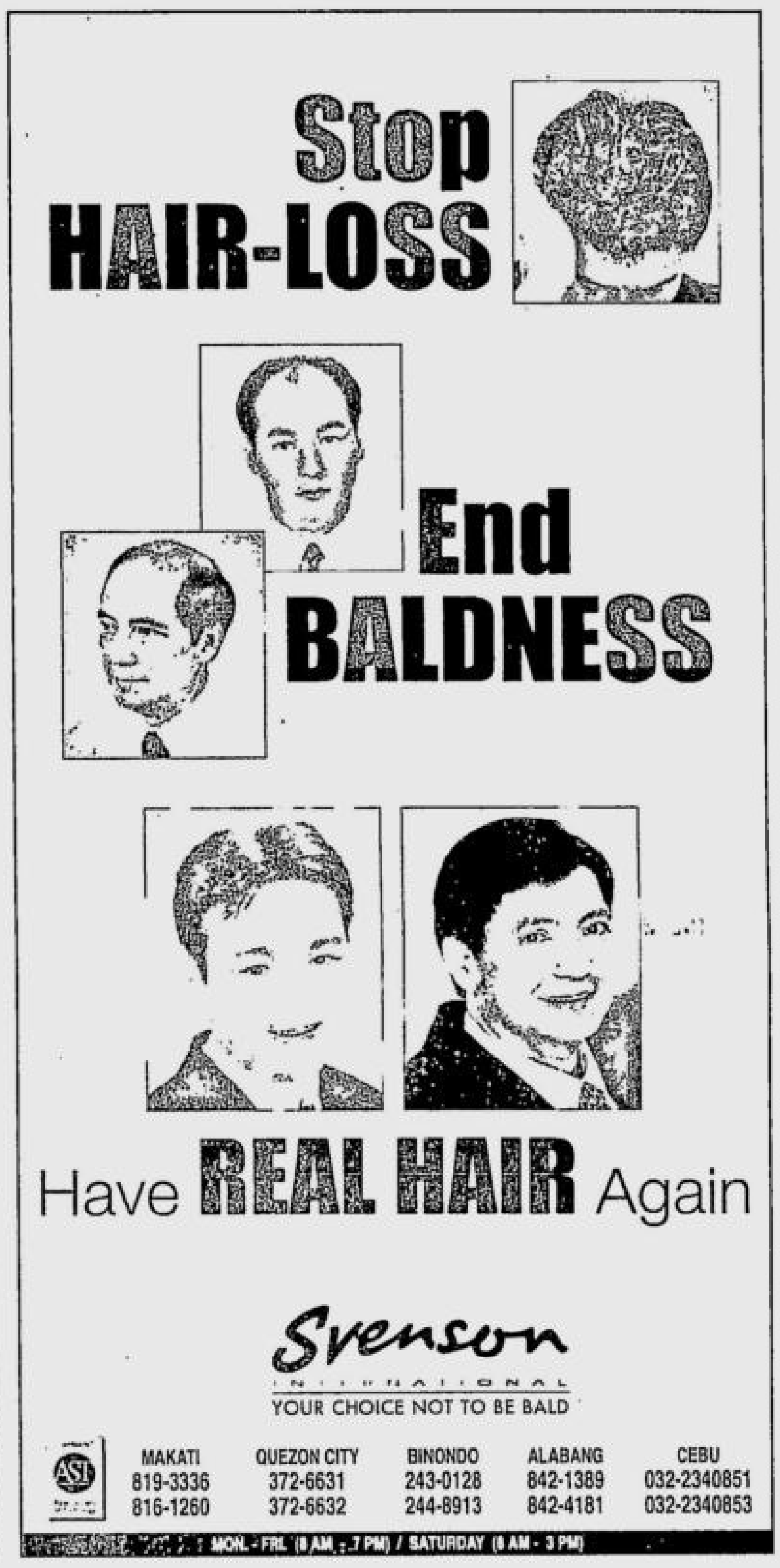
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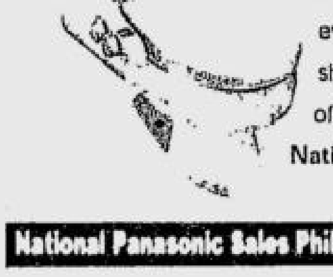

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MID-YEAR ECONOMIC BRIEFING
SEPTEMBER 2002
HOTEL, MAKATI CITY
Republic of the Philippines

BRIGHT ECONOMIC PROSPECTS
Members of the Macapagal administration's economic team were one in saying that the country's macroeconomic fundamentals remain healthy and prospects for the entire year are bright. The team—composed of (from left) Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Customs Commissioner Antonio Martinez Bernardo and Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr.—presented its economic performance report and projections for the year in a mid-year economic briefing Monday.

Peso likely to sustain rise–Camacho

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday that the peso was likely to sustain its appreciation in the near term, steadily recovering from a nine-month low of 52.41 to the dollar hit over a week ago.

The peso's recent slide was due to seasonal factors and the budget deficit, he told a briefing of reporters at the presidential palace.

"With the astute management by the Bangko Sentral, I think you have seen that the peso in fact has recovered from the pressures of maybe about a week ago. And we expect that will continue," he said.

The peso closed firmer at 51.69 to the dollar on Tuesday from its close of 51.75 on Monday.

"The recent pressure on the peso, I believe, has been caused by a number of reasons. Part of it is seasonality," Camacho said.

Importers usually need dollars in the third quarter when they import their requirements for fourth quarter production when domestic demand usually picks up for Christmas.

Camacho also said remittances from overseas Filipino workers tend to slow down in July to September right after a huge inflow that arrives in May and June in time for school opening locally and before college enrolment in October.

Weakness in regional currencies also influenced the peso's movement on top of concerns over the country's ballooning budget deficit.

"That's why we keep on stressing that people should put the budget concerns into context. There may also have been some effect on investor confidence and therefore the pressure on the peso," Camacho said.

The country's budget deficit as of July has already exceeded by more than P3 billion the full-year target of P130 billion. The market fears a ballooning deficit may put pressure on interest rates and force the central bank to re-think its monetary policy.

The central bank has said the government's growing budget deficit does not warrant a change in monetary policy given the low interest rate environment, stable prices and a relatively strong economic recovery.

President Macapagal-Arroyo warned on Monday against speculation in the foreign exchange market, saying violators could face charges of economic sabotage.

Ms Macapagal issued the warning after recent volatility in the peso which has been traced to worries the government might be forced to borrow more to cover its widening budget deficit.

"One of the things we are watching is the exchange rate between the peso and the dollar. For now, this is under control. But even at this time, now that we have a budget deficit, the problem is businessmen get nervous and speculation starts," Ms Macapagal said in a speech to farmers and local officials in Cabanatuan City.

"I want to issue a reminder, like last year when speculation was high, that speculation that severely erodes the value of the peso is economic sabotage. But thank God, so far this year nobody has been guilty of this." Economic sabotage is punishable by life in prison. ***Reuters***

Thailand seeks access for its sugar exports to RP, Indonesia

THAILAND is seeking preferential access for its sugar exports to the Philippines and Indonesia after it dropped its opposition to these countries' plan to delay the tariff cuts on sugar.

The Department of Trade and Industry said in a report that negotiations among the three Asean members began during the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) last month in Manila and that these would continue in the next Asean Ministerial meeting in Brunei on Sept. 12.

The Philippines and Indonesia have transferred sugar from the temporary exclusion list to the list of highly sensitive items of the Common Effect Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme.

The shift will allow the Philippines and Indonesia to delay the scheduled reduction in their sugar tariff from 50 percent to 5 percent to 2010 from the original timetable of 2003, the start of the Asean Free Trade Area.

Although the Afta protocol allows Asean members to seek exemption for industries that they believe are not ready yet for full trade liberalization, members that will obtain exemption are required to compensate other members that will lose out from any deferment.

Thailand was the lone opposition to the Philippines' and Indonesia's sugar tariff petition because a delay in tariff reduction would force it to wait longer before it could export its excess sugar to these countries. Thailand emerged as a major supplier of sugar into the country mainly due to its lower prices.

Aside from the work program on the elimination of tariffs, the SEOM has also been working on the creation of a roadmap for Asean integration; establishment of an Asean Business Advisory Council; enhancement of the Asean Industrial Cooperation scheme; implementation of the 10-x principle; harmonization of quality standards; formation of separate free trade agreements with Japan, India and Australia-New Zealand.

Aside from the Asean, the DTI is also lobbying the World Trade Organization to raise the bound rate or maximum duty on sugar from 65 percent to 80 percent for the next 10 years. Most favored nation tariff rates on sugar is expected to fall to 50 percent next year. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

Gov't to scale down ₱7-B dollar-linked float

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to scale down the size of the planned P7- billion dollar-linked peso bond float, which was scheduled for this month. The issue was aimed at raising funds to help boost the country's finances in view of the widening budget deficit.

The Bureau of Treasury announced late last month that it had mandated Deutsche Bank, RCBC Capital and Multinational Investment Bancorp. to underwrite this month a P7-billion two-and-three-year dollar hedge debt instruments.

However, a ranking government official said the fixed-income market was demanding higher returns for their bond purchases, which state officials felt were unreasonable given the government's still healthy cash position. This, according to the official, may force the government to cut down the volume of the planned issue to P3 billion.

"There is a demand for P3 billion worth of these notes at rates that the government is amenable to accept. We may just opt to cut down the issue if not cancel it altogether," said a finance official.

Sources said the three underwriters of the issue had informed the government of the investors' demand for a spread equivalent to at least one percentage point higher than the prevailing rates on two-and-three-year dollar-denominated Philippine bonds.

A trader from a foreign bank said that the government must realize that the dollar-linked peso bonds were not attractive to the market unless the peso was volatile. However, the peso has so far remained stable despite a slight drop late last month.

First offered to local investors in November last year, the so-called dollar hedge or dollar-linked instruments are low-earning, peso-denominated bonds that pay investors an interest rate comparable to prevailing rates on dollar-denominated Philippine bonds.

Because of the low interest rates, dollar-linked bonds provide the government a cheap source of funds.

Investors will be paid based on the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of the bond's maturity.

In late 2001, the government resorted to the flotation of these dollar-linked instruments and raised some P3.5-billion.

"The problem with those bonds is that they pay very low rates because even if they are peso-denominated, their coupon rates are based on the dollar debt papers of the government. The hedge has no strong value for investors especially at times like now when the peso is stable," said a fixed-income trader.

The national government wanted to generate as much as P20 billion from the low-yielding dollar-linked peso instruments if it was assured that there was enough appetite in the market for the new debt notes.

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	Please Call
Baguio Country Club	-	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	260,000
Canlubang	Please Call	600,000
Canyonwoods	-	Please Call
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	290,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,450,000	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	700,000
Metropolitan Club "A"		110,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		150,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul		100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	460,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,750,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,625,000	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	760,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	-
Valley Golf	300,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mt. Malarayat	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Mimosa Golf	25,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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House . . .

From page B1

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. hailed the passage of the Transco franchise bill, which paved the way for the eventual privatization of the transmission assets of the Napocor.

Perez said the passage of the bill "is a major move toward alleviating the public sector deficit" as the privatization of the transmission assets is expected to fetch some $4 billion to $5 billion in investments. The move will also help generate some $500 million in annual savings on financing charges.

The privatization also opens the door for the entry of the needed capital for the creation of a world-class transmission network in the country. A modern network, he said, is badly needed to support the country's economic and industrial growth, and to ensure a consistently efficient supply of electricity throughout the country.

Perez also lauded the House version of the Transco bill, saying the version "allows the government to keep the 'Crown Jewels'—meaning the transmission assets—while optimizing investment and revenue opportunities leasing them to a private sector concessionaire."

"What is good about this is that consumers also get to share in the cake," Perez added. He explained that this was because the privatization proceeds would translate to 47.4 centavos per kilowatt-hour on all sales from 2003. The amount could serve as a buffer or hedge against any possible hike in electricity rates, he said.

However, consumer welfare groups yesterday warned that a new monopoly in the power industry was bound to emerge with the Transco franchise bill.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said in a statement that the transferable franchise would not result in lower electricity costs, but would ultimately benefit the yet unnamed foreign firm that would take over Transco.

"Accessible and affordable electricity is a matter of public interest," he said. "Our experiences have shown that it is the consumer who ends up as a loser when public enterprises are taken over by private monopolies and operated for profit."

Pampanga LGU, businessmen hit planned SM mall in Clark

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PAMPANGA'S local government officials and business leaders have expressed their opposition to the plan of Clark Development Corp.'s management to put up an SM shopping mall at the special economic zone's Salakot entrance.

A multi-sectoral hearing was held Monday in Angeles City, Pampanga, to get the views of the residents in the area on the planned shopping mall. The CDC board has decided to defer its approval of the project for two months to give its directors more time to study the project.

Local government leaders such as Angeles City Mayor Tarzan Lazatin, Mabalacat Mayor Mariano Morales, and Rep. Francis Nepomuceno joined forces with businessman Perto Cruz in criticizing CDC's choice site for the SM mall.

They criticized the CDC for its short-term and opportunistic goals by endorsing the shopping mall project site, which they feared would undermine the overall strategic development of Central Luzon. They also warned that opening a giant mall along MacArthur Highway would lead to closure of small- and medium-sized retailers in the area.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has led the opposition to the construction of a P500-million shopping mall at the entrance of the Clark Special Economic Zone near the MacArthur Highway because of its impact on the long-term projects planned for development of Clark and Central Luzon.

The BCDA said the project would create a major gridlock in one of Luzon's main arteries for commuter and cargo transport; pre-empt the design of the planned multi-modal logistics center that would be built east of the airport runway; and compromise the layout of the critical access facilities to the airport from the Subic port, Metro Manila (including North Rail), Pangasinan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

The BCDA has urged the CDC board to look for alternative sites inside the zone, such as the Centennial Expo, that would not jeopardize the government's long-term plans for the area.

Victorias breaks production record

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. posted two all-time records during the crop year ending Aug. 31, 2002, VMC management committee chief operating officer Arthur N. Aguilar said in a report.

Raw sugar production during the period reached 5.082 million bags, beating the previous record of 4.7 million bags reached in CY 1975-76.

The other record was on cane tonnage that reached 2.63 tons, higher than the previous record of 2.61 million tons achieved in CY 1993-94. VMC processed approximately 26 percent of all sugarcane produced in Negros Occidental, besting the nine other operating sugar mills in the same province. VMC's mill efficiency of approximately 1.93 bags of sugar per ton cane is among the highest in the country, he said.

Aguilar attributed this record performance to the efforts of the employees, patronage by the sugarcane planters, support of suppliers and contractors and the diligent attention by the representatives of the creditor banks and the Securities and Exchange Commission who were actively involved in the VMC management committee.

In the past 18 months, VMC had embarked on a massive capital expenditure program to expand its milling capacity during the peak season, to improve its milling efficiency and to upgrade its infrastructure.

The full implementation of VMC's rehabilitation program is awaiting the final SEC order which will pave the way for the conversion of some P1.1 billion in debts to banks to about 70-percent equity. About P4.2 billion of VMC's remaining debt will be restructured into a 15-year loan, of which P2.4 billion will be in convertible notes.

A new board will be elected to manage VMC throughout its rehabilitation program. VMC is currently under a management contract with CEOs Inc., a firm composed of practicing CEOs.

Opec rows over oil policy ahead of key meet

RIYADH/RIO DE JANEIRO—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries quarreled openly on Monday ahead of a key policy decision later this month on whether to pump more oil to prevent high crude prices from stunting world economic recovery.

Opec kingpin Saudi Arabia said talk of a specific Saudi position was "untrue" after price hawk Venezuela said the kingdom shared its wish to extend current output curbs at the Sept. 19 meeting.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said in remarks on the state-run Saudi Press Agency that adjustments to Opec's output ceiling would be made at the meeting to be held in Osaka, Japan, by consensus and after consultations between ministers.

"There seems to be a breakdown in communications in Opec," said Nauman Barakat of FIMAT International Banque.

"It's possible the Venezuelans are trying to push the Saudis into a position that they don't want to take," he added.

The public row harked back to Opec of old, before a series of drastic curbs starting in 1999 that reunified the cartel after a price war and laid the basis for a three-year price boom.

International benchmark Brent crude oil, which has climbed by a third since the start of the year, closed seven cents higher at $27.54 per barrel on Monday.

Oil dependent Western economies are pressing the Middle East-dominated group to relax supply quotas, arguing that lower prices would strengthen the global economic recovery.

After three years of high prices and output curbs, many Opec countries are struggling to contain growing volumes of idle output capacity.

The group pumped 9 percent over its agreed output ceiling in July, the highest level of quota-busting since 1998, when Opec bickering led to an oil price war and financial crisis in exporting countries.

Opec ministers are keen to avoid a repeat of a meeting in Jakarta in 1997 that preceded the last oil price crash.

At that meeting, Opec raised its output ceiling to legitimize quota cheating just before an economic crisis in Asia that sharply shrank demand.

Opec president Rilwanu Lukman said on Sunday the oil-producing cartel should be careful not to tip oil markets into oversupply by raising production too much.

"We'll be cautious. There is danger of putting too much oil into the markets," Lukman told reporters in Brazil. "There is no danger of putting too little oil in. We can always fix that."

While Opec is worried about oversupply, importing countries fear price spikes this winter.

The US government's Energy Information Administration has argued that oil stockpiles could get dangerously low by year-end if Opec does not release extra supply.

Some industry sources believe that Saudi Arabia wants Opec to raise its ceiling of 21.7 million barrels per day (bpd) by about 1 million bpd from Oct. 1 to meet peak winter demand.

In Monday's statement, Saudi's Naimi reaffirmed that Saudi Arabia sought a balanced world oil market and "price stability at levels suitable to both producers and consumers and in a fashion that serves the world economy and its continued growth." *Reuters*

4,000 IBM workers seen losing jobs

NEW YORK—About 4,000 people are likely to lose their jobs as IBM Corp. completes its acquisition of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC's consulting arm, the Wall Street Journal reported in its online edition Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

It has not been determined how many will come from the Pricewaterhouse consulting group, which has about 30,000 workers, the Journal reported. It is also uncertain how many will come from IBM's 50,000-employee consulting arm, known within IBM as Business Innovation Services, the Journal reported.

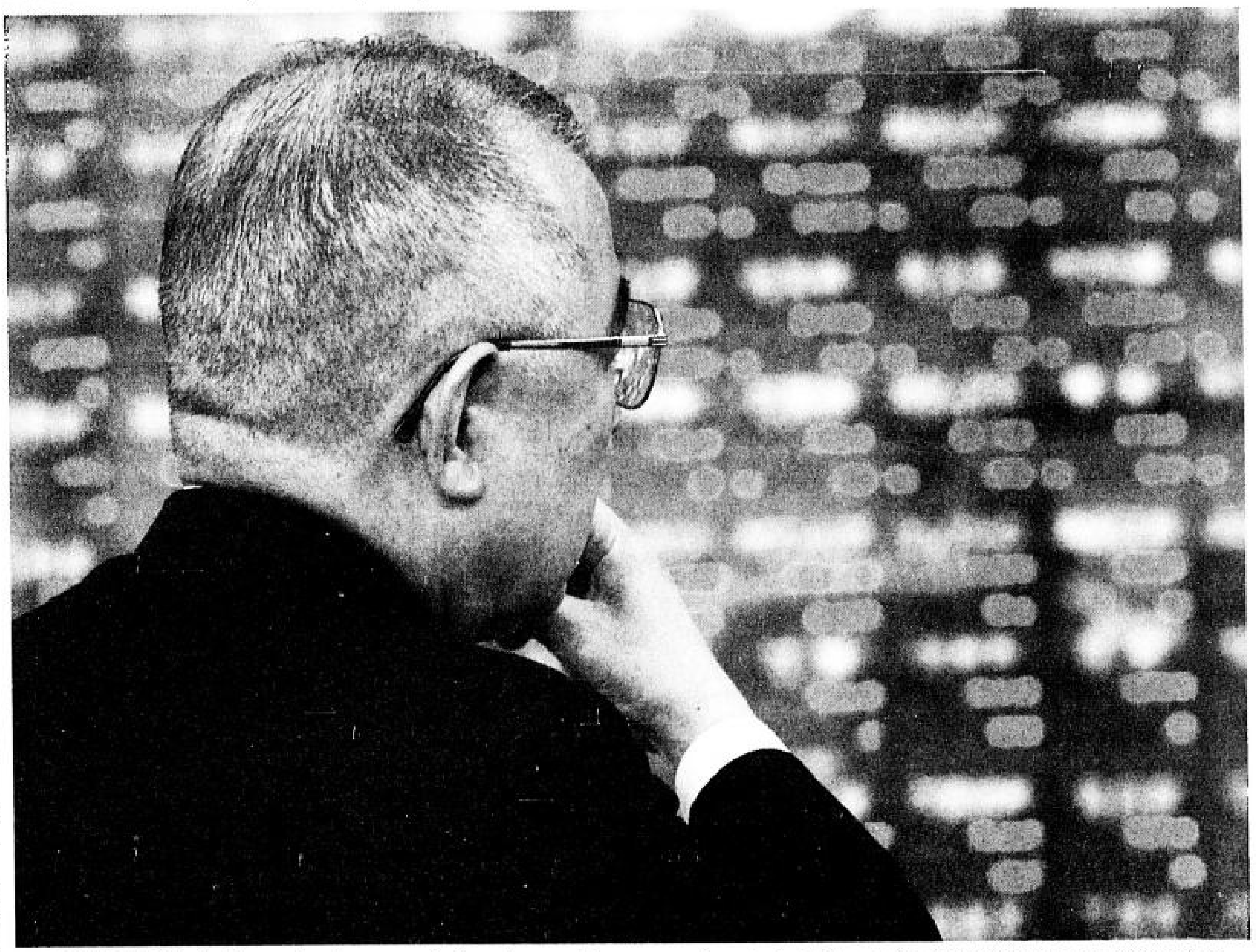
The deal is scheduled to be completed on Sept. 30, and the layoffs, which will amount to about 5 percent of the combined units, are expected during the fourth quarter, according to the Journal article.

Last month, IBM announced an agreement to acquire the consulting business for $3.5 billion in cash and stock.

Many of the layoffs are expected to be in the support-staff area, with IBM planning to retain people with direct client contacts, the Journal reported.

People familiar with IBM's plans said the layoffs were still being fine-tuned and could change if the information-technology consulting business rebounded unexpectedly or if it continued to get worse, according to the Journal article.

Layoffs could also be reduced by people leaving Pricewaterhouse before the acquisition occurs, the Journal reported. They said individuals to be laid off have not yet been identified, the Journal reported. *Reuters*



A BUSINESSMAN checks stock prices at a window of a security company branch in Tokyo, as the Nikkei finishes at a 19-year low. The Nikkei 225 selected issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange lost 304.59 points to end the day at 9,217.04, its lowest since Sept. 19, 1983, when the index finished at 9,141.25.

AFP

United Airlines names another outsider as CEO

CHICAGO—Another airline industry outsider, oil executive Glenn Tilton, was named chair, chief executive and president of the parent of struggling United Airlines and charged with steering the No. 2 US airline to financial stability in rapid fashion.

Tilton, 54, with a long career in the oil industry as vice chair of ChevronTexaco Corp. and interim chair of Dynegy, immediately replaces interim chair and chief executive Jack Creighton, who just turned 70.

Creighton was a former timber executive and UAL Corp. board member named to help steer the airline through a historic and ongoing crisis in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. Tilton, who is resigning from his other posts, becomes the fifth UAL CEO in about a decade.

In a press release late Monday afternoon, United said president Rono Dutta and chief operating officer Andy Studdert were both resigning "to afford Mr. Tilton wider latitude to fill these key positions on the senior management team." The airline's board met by telephone on Monday morning.

Creighton, who replaced ousted CEO James Goodwin last October, is retiring. UAL shares have been in a freefall this year, closing Friday at $2.87 per share. It its heyday in the late 1990s, the stock was more than $200 per share on a pre-split basis.

The airline's machinists and pilots, both with seats on the UAL board, initially applauded Tilton's appointment. They called him everything from "creative" to "a proven leader" to "a good listener." That is an encouraging sign from employees at United, which is trying to win government loan guarantees and avoid an autumn bankruptcy.

One of its rivals, the US Airways Group, has already filed for court protection from creditors and is waging ongoing battles with labor to cut costs.

United is 55-percent owned by employees, and the board structure gives labor unusual power, including the right to veto CEO choices. Creighton conceded in an interview with Reuters that he underestimated the magnitude of the labor problems.

Labor and other workers do not want to see their stock holdings rendered worthless through a bankruptcy filing. But they also have long memories when it comes to past management.

"Glenn Tilton brings the type of qualifications and leadership that United needs and the support on the board was unanimous," said Paul Whiteford, head of the Air Line Pilots Association master executive council and a board member.

"He also brings the business experience and acumen that we need to turn the company around."

Tom Buffenbarger, president of the International Association of Machinists, said: "I got the word that our guys are behind this guy." The IAM represents 37,000 workers at United. *Reuters*

Japan manufacturing expansion sputters in Aug.

TOKYO—Japan's tentative manufacturing recovery showed signs of faltering for the second month in a row in August as export demand weakened, a survey showed on Tuesday, reinforcing concerns over Japan's economic outlook.

The first public release of the Reuters/Nomura/JMAA Purchasing Managers' Index showed Japanese manufacturing activity expanded in August, but growth was the slowest in four months.

The overall PMI, which gives an early snapshot of trends in manufacturing activity, came in at 51, seasonally adjusted, the fourth month in a row above the neutral 50 mark.

But the reading was down from 52.7 in July and 54.1 in June, the highest in the survey's brief history.

The PMI reinforces financial market concerns that an economic recovery in the April-to-June quarter, supported largely by exports, is losing steam.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock market average fell to an 18-year low on Tuesday, as banks and other blue chip issues tumbled on worries about the dimming economic outlook in Japan and the United States and the implications for corporate earnings.

"The market here seems to have started factoring in the near-term risk of negative growth in Japan," said Toyomi Kusano, director at Credit Agricole Indosuez Securities.

The world's second-largest economy grew 0.5 percent in the April-June quarter, data showed on Friday, but a big revision to gross domestic product wiped out strong growth in the previous quarter.

The outside risk, economists say, is that Japan's economy could contract again later this year or slip back into recession in early 2003 as export growth stalls and consumer spending—the biggest portion of the economy—languishes.

A blizzard of disappointing data for July, released on Friday along with the GDP figures, reinforced those fears.

Factory output fell 0.4 percent from June, retail sales dropped 5.3 percent from a year earlier, deflation deepened and the jobless rate held steady at 5.4 percent, a breath away from a post-war high.

"People have had time to digest the avalanche of data that came out on Friday and the overall impression is that it was moderately negative," said Richard Jerram, an economist at ING Financial Markets. *Reuters*

Li Ka-shing raises stake in flagship

HONG KONG—Asia's richest businessman, Li Ka-shing, bought two million shares in his Hong Kong flagship, Cheung Kong (Holdings), for roughly HK$114.25 million (US$14.6 million) in the days after it reported a 7-percent drop in first-half net profit.

The acquisition boosted his stake in the firm to 839.85 million shares, or 36.17 percent, according to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Li, chair of Cheung Kong and sister firm Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., bought the shares at prices ranging from HK$55.25 to HK$59 between Aug. 23 and 29. Cheung Kong, the largest listed property developer in Asia outside Japan, posted its interim results on Aug. 22.

Cheung Kong shares were unchanged at HK$55 in early Tuesday trade, unmoved by the news. The stock had dropped about 6.8 percent in the month through Monday and 23.9 percent over three months.

Li also purchased HK$400 million worth of equity-linked notes of Cheung Kong last week at strike prices of between HK$55.575 and HK$56.05, the exchange report showed.

"Mr. Li bought more Cheung Kong ELNs than shares, which indicated that he has confidence on the stock in the long-term but may have reservations about its current price," said Eric Yuen, an analyst at Dao Heng Securities. *Reuters*

Toyota, Nissan to swap hybrid technologies

TOKYO—Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. have concluded an agreement on the long-term, continuous transaction of hybrid systems.

The two companies said they found a common ground in terms of philosophy and outlook in their discussions on the future popularization of hybrid vehicles.

This agreement, aiming for a business relationship of 10 years or longer, calls for Toyota to supply state-of-the-art hybrid system components to Nissan.

In addition, aiming for long-term technological cooperation; both companies have also agreed to start exchanging information and discussing joint development of components related to hybrid systems that both Toyota and Nissan are currently developing independently.

As an initial project, Nissan will install a hybrid system currently under development by Toyota in Nissan's vehicles to be sold in the United States in 2006. Volume is expected to reach 100,000 units within a five-year period starting 2006.

The components for the hybrid system, such as the transaxle and inverter, will be developed by Toyota, while Nissan will conduct development of its own engine and application of the hybrid system on its own vehicle, which will have a direct impact on Nissan's product. *Reuters*

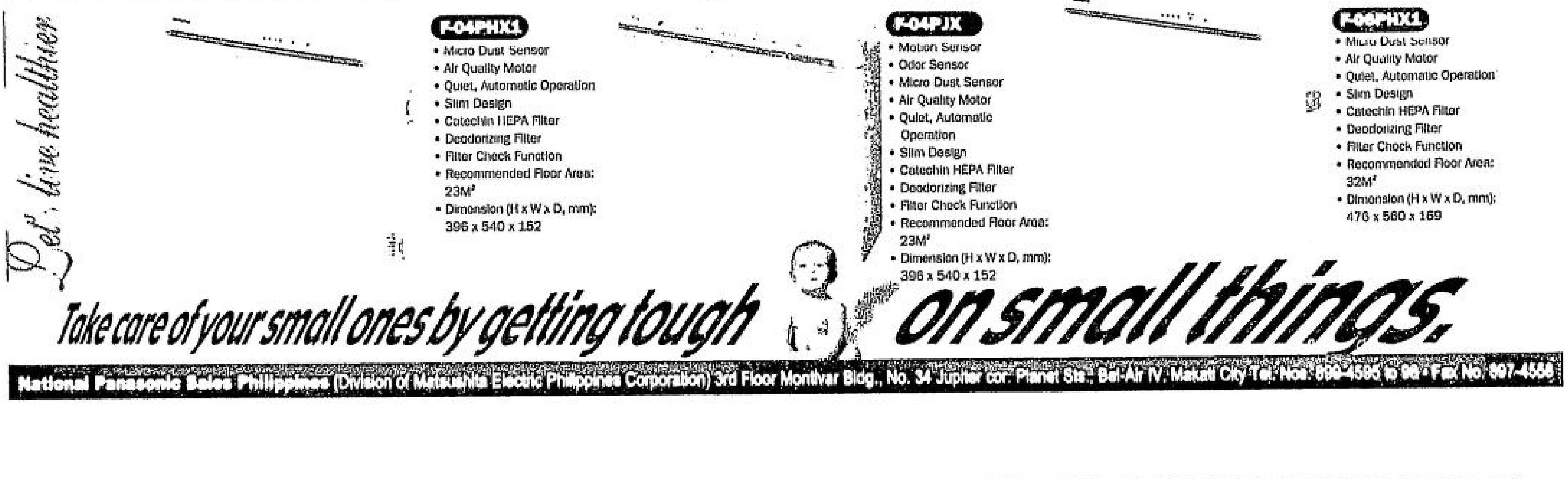
Microsoft rolls out new mice, keyboards

SEATTLE—Microsoft Corp. launched a wide collection of new-look keyboards and mice on Monday as the world's largest software maker gears up to offer a barrage of consumer-oriented products this fall.

The new keyboards and mice, which will be available to consumers by the end of September, feature new colors such as blue, gray and black, and are designed for specific tasks, such as browsing the Web or working with Office, Microsoft's set of word processing and spreadsheet productivity software.

Top-end models will include a wireless keyboard and optical mouse. Models to be released later this year will feature Bluetooth technology, a new wireless technology that allows devices to work with each other without cables.

Microsoft, hoping to extend its reach beyond the desktop, is marketing new consumer products such as a mobile phone with its software, online services for its Xbox video game console and other consumer-friendly products this fall. *Reuters*



National Air Purifier

Let's live healthier

F-04PHX1
- Micro Dust Sensor
- Air Quality Motor
- Quiet, Automatic Operation
- Slim Design
- Catechin HEPA Filter
- Deodorizing Filter
- Filter Check Function
- Recommended Floor Area: 23M²
- Dimension (H x W x D, mm): 396 x 540 x 152

F-04PJX
- Motion Sensor
- Odor Sensor
- Micro Dust Sensor
- Air Quality Motor
- Quiet, Automatic Operation
- Slim Design
- Catechin HEPA Filter
- Deodorizing Filter
- Filter Check Function
- Recommended Floor Area: 23M²
- Dimension (H x W x D, mm): 396 x 540 x 152

F-06PHX1
- Micro Dust Sensor
- Air Quality Motor
- Quiet, Automatic Operation
- Slim Design
- Catechin HEPA Filter
- Deodorizing Filter
- Filter Check Function
- Recommended Floor Area: 32M²
- Dimension (H x W x D, mm): 476 x 560 x 169

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Plae leads celebration of 1st epilepsy awareness week

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has signed proclamation No. 230 Aug. 12 this year declaring the 1st week of September of every year as "National Epilepsy Awareness Week" under the auspices of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy Inc (Plae).

Plae is a non-profit organization of health and health-related professionals committed to improve the quality of life of persons with epilepsy through education, research, prevention, advocacy and delivery of optimal health care.

As the national chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy (Ilae), Plae launched the "Epilepsy: Out of the Shadows" Philippine campaign Sept. 8, 2001, a national epilepsy campaign, which was the country's participation to the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy.

The Global Campaign Against Epilepsy is the first truly global attempt to bring epilepsy out into the open. It is a joint initiative of Ilae, the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Their joint mission is to improve the acceptability, treatment, services and prevention of epilepsy worldwide.

The national epilepsy campaign will be developed within the already existing national health care system in collaboration with the Department of Health, public and private sectors, relevant non-government organizations, patients, families, and their caregivers as partners.

As part of the "Out of the Shadows" campaign, Plae leads the celebration of the 1st National Epilepsy Awareness Week, with the slogan "Nagagamot ang Epilepsy", from Sept. 2 to 8.

During the celebration, 42 epilepsy seminars will be held in selected hospitals in Metro Manila and in selected provinces nationwide. There will be 22 epilepsy lay symposiums for non-medical audiences, eight in Metro Manila and the rest in 14 towns/cities covering eight regions from Dagupan to Zamboanga City. Interactive sessions on "Basic Clinical Epilepsy" for primary care physicians and non-neurologists will be held in 18 towns/cities nationwide, covering 10 regions and in 2 hospitals in Metro Manila. Most of these epilepsy seminars will be held between Sept. 2 and 8, a few of them within the month of September.

An essay contest will also be launched at the National Capital and Luzon regions.

Other activities to be held in different regions include radio and TV appearances, a press conference, a motorcade, a drawing contest for children, epilepsy information booths, and free epilepsy clinics. Weeklong activities will be held in Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo, Ozamis and Cagayan de Oro cities.

The celebration will be capped by the walkathon "Walking Out of the Shadows of Epilepsy" on Sept. 8, at 6:30 a.m. at the Quezon City Memorial Circle. Registration is free. Breakfast will be served. Prizes and T-shirts will be given away. A simultaneous walkathon will also be held in Iloilo City.

For more information, call the the Epilepsy Hotline at 867-4765.

MCDONALDS ON TOP 25

The McDonald's management team poses right after the opening of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies' (4As) 25th anniversary celebrations Aug. 29. McDonald's was selected among 100 contenders as one of the top 25 advertisers. The 4As acknowledges McDonald's creativity and excellence inculcate important values to the hearts and minds of consumers. Shown is Joe S. Lau, managing director (center left) with (from left) Zonito Torrevillas, PR manager, Norkie Go, AVP for menu management, Leila Hernandez, VP for marketing, Kenneth S. Yang, executive vice president, and Ed Hitosis, AVP for business development.

UNIONBANK, PLDT TIE UP FOR ONLINE PAYMENT

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and UnionBank of the Philippines (UnionBank) recently collaborated to allow corporate and individual customers to view and pay their phone bills online with ease. Corporate and household customers of PLDT who have accounts with UnionBank can transact online payments to settle their phone bills through the Internet via the PLDT@ctiveBill website. PLDT@ctiveBill is a paperless means of viewing and paying phone bills either through the Internet or through Smart's Mobile Banking System. UnionBank president and COO Victor B. Valdepenas (4th from right) seals the online payment tie-up with PLDT CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan (4th from left). Witnessing the event are PLDT officials (from left) Ito Ramirez, SVP and head, GMM retail business group, Al Panlilio, SVP and head, corporate business group, and Annabele Chua, SVP and director, along with UnionBank executive vice presidents Guia C. Lim, Edwin R. Bautista and Hermie Pugeda.

AGORA CONFERENCE

Prepare to do battle, learn 'The Art of Marketing Warfare'

"KNOW the enemy and know yourself and you can fight a hundred battles without defeat"--a strategy of war advocated by ancient China's famous military scientist, Sun Tzu, in his book "The Art of War".

These famous lines have not only inspired but likewise emboldened many CEOs and even start-up entrepreneurs. When applied to today's highly competitive and volatile business environment, however, they should perhaps include yet another character in the "drama of war" – the market, where the actual war is waged and battles are fought.

Taking from the same lines, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) is itself gearing up the business community to "prepare to do battle" by learning "the art of marketing warfare."

Come Oct. 10 and 11, PMA's Agora Conference will gather 12 distinguished men and women from business and academe – all Agora awardees – to share with participants "the art of marketing warfare" – inputs and insights that can prove invaluable as they eventually return to the marketing arena, where the war (of competition) is actually waged and battles for market supremacy are fought.

Titled "Prepare to do Battle – The Art of Marketing Warfare", this year's Agora Conference can be called "the best in marketing education conference" for many reasons.

For one, only Agora awardees or those representing a company that has won the award can be invited as resource speakers in any Agora Conference.

As Agora awardees, the resource speakers are the most qualified to talk about "winning marketing strategies", having won the award, whether individual or representing a company or institution, on account of the phenomenal success of their product in the market or significant contribution to the marketing profession, among others.

The Agora Award is the most prestigious award in the marketing industry. It aims primarily to give recognition to outstanding marketing practitioners and to encourage marketing practitioners to strive for excellence.

For the first time also in the history of the Agora Conference, a CEO and an educator will be paired off to tackle a common topic and discuss it from two viewpoints, an innovation that validates marketing theories through first-hand experiences or applications in business.

These topics will be tackled by a roster of familiar names in business and academe, namely Dr. Leonardo Garcia, director, Graduate Studies, College of Business and Economics at De La Salle University, Inez Reyes, vice president for marketing, Jollibee, Oscar Lagman, marketing and management consultant, Dr. Eduardo Roberto, chair, Roberto & Associates; Alex Castillo, president, Del Monte Phils., Luz Suplico, professor, College of Business and Economics at De La Salle University, Malou Dy-Buncio, general manager, Avon Cosmetics, Tomas Lopez, professor, Asian Institute of Management, Johnlu Koa, president, French Baker, and Josiah Go, president, Mansmith and Fielders.

If you've ever wondered how Jollibee, Del Monte, French Baker, Avon and Penshoppe have stayed at the top, you'll hear it straight from their Agora awardee spokesperson during the Agora Conference at Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Enroll now. Special rates are given for participants from the academe and groups in excess of 10 members.

Call the PMA Secretariat (Lydia, Sarah or Lira) at 893-7127, 892-3144 or 813-0466. You may also register online at pma@philonline.com or by fax 892-3261 and 892-0977.

INQUIRER WELCOMES FIRST LADY J&J PRESIDENT

The youngest and first female head of the 49-year-old Johnson and Johnson Philippines, Grace Castano, was appointed as its new president and managing director this April. The Inquirer recently hosted a luncheon to celebrate her many years of service and congratulated her well-earned success. Seated, from left, are J&J group brand manager for baby and kids line Sam Sotto-Yambao, Castano, Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto, and Universal McCann managing director Venus Navalta. Standing, from left, are Inquirer AVP for advertising Kenny Nuyda, marketing manager Donald Lim, J&J marketing director Grace Chua, Inquirer corporate relations manager Celine Madamba, corporate planning and business development manager Imee Alcantara, SVP for corporate services David Valdes, J&J group brand manager for adult skin and hair line Mutya Laxa, Universal McCann SVP and media director May Rosales, Inquirer VP for finance Luis Ymson, Universal McCann VP Malu Vasallo, and Inquirer VP for advertising Pepito Olarte.

Product FILES

The natural choice

Anchor
PURE NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

HAVE YOU checked your butter's ingredients label? Does it have preservatives? Time and again, different health authorities and scientific studies have reported that preservatives pose detrimental effects on one's health. Although these are commonly utilized to enhance a product's quality or extend its storage life, some preservatives contain harmful chemical components.

For years, Anchor Butter has been one of the country's leading butter brands known for delivering premium quality butter that is guaranteed pure and fresh. Made from 100-percent cow's milk, Anchor Butter contains no preservatives, artificial flavoring and coloring. It is imported from New Zealand, where cows breathe fresh air, eat lush green grass and drink clean water. Thus, their milk is rich in beta-carotene, a good source of vitamin A. To lock in all this creamy goodness, Anchor Butter is packed in a SealFresh foil packaging that bears all its ingredients.

Anchor Butter even has a longer shelf life than other butter brands.

BITS Clips

Seminar on SME financing

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) and the PDB FMO Development Center (PDCenter) will conduct a one-day seminar on "Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises". Scheduled for Sept. 5, the seminar is specifically for entrepreneurs, SME managers, venture capital funders, finance executives and business consultants, banks and other lending institutions. The seminar will provide a thorough knowledge and understanding of SMEs. It will also discuss the nature of credit in business. The seminar will be held at the Plantersbank Building, Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more inquiries, call Marlene Latuna of Finex at 811-4052 or 811-4188.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Magallanes Drive, Intramuros
1002 Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Immigration is inviting interested contractors to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and bid for the proposed four-storey extension of BI Main Office Building, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila.

Interested contractors should be duly-registered/licensed with the PCAB with a classification of Medium "B" for Vertical Structures and should have performed other similar projects.

Notice for Prequalification/Eligibility Screening and List of Prequalification/Eligibility Requirements and other relevant information may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Bureau of Immigration, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila from **Septembr 9 to 10, 2002**. Submission of duly-accomplished prequalification/eligibility forms shall be on **September 17, 2002** upon presentation of official Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

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(PDI--Aug 30, Sep. 1 & 4, 2002)

China WTO impact on Asean

Dr. Victor K. Fung, chair and CEO of Hong Kong-based Li & Fung Distribution Group, will deliver a special address on "China WTO and Impact on Asean" on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. He is also expected to offer suggestions on how Asean countries would be able to cope positively with this development. Clients and business partners of JDH (Philippines) Inc. and IDS Logistics (Philippines) Inc., subsidiaries of the Li & Fung Distribution Group in the Philippines, are among invited guests. Li & Fung's extensive supply chain management operations include manufacturing, marketing and logistics in Greater China and the Asean, which provide the company with a strategic vantage point in relation to the China WTO. Fung is the former chair of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and is at present chair of the Hong Kong Airport Authority

Couple prospers on 'pan de sal'

THE PINEDA couple of Pasig City is an example of how selling hot pan de sal can be rewarding and profitable. Armed with mere determination and P45,000 from their joint savings, Art and Anna purchased a Magic Oven from the Bakery Exchange (Bakerex), and started Anjo's Bakeshop December last year. Now, the bakery can sell P3,000 worth of pan de sal and other basic bakery commodities daily. What's more, Art and Anna can leave the business to their two trained employees while they pursue their own careers. Art is presently connected with an IT firm, while Anna works for a satellite arm of a telephone company. Thanks to Magic Oven, say the couple, there is no need to employ a panadero, as the system is already equipped with two-layer baking plates and a built-in dough proofer. A demo on the Magic Oven will be held at the Bakerex showcase from today until Sept. 7 at the AsiaFood Expo 2002 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City.

Entrepreneurial marketing seminar

THE TECHNOLOGY and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) will hold a seminar on Entrepreneurial Marketing on Sept. 5 and 6, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., to impart skills in marketing products and services. The seminar discusses all the aspects required to achieve competence in marketing products and services and to maximize profits. Resource person is Bam Disimulacion, a consultant for marketing, public relations and events planning and management.,Topics include marketing objectives, market segmentation, positioning/branding and niches, value creation, marketing mix, promotions, process, ethics in marketing, decision-making, latest trends, and marketing plan. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709 and 633-6728, or at 637-4108 to 12, local 605, or visit TLRC at Unit 805, eighth floor of CityState Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City.

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

Engineer asks, 'Am I being eased out?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

I AM a 35-year-old project engineer. For the past three years, I have handled a series of successful projects. I expected to be promoted as assistant manager within the engineering division. Recently, however, my manager told me that senior management has decided to promote me as assistant manager in the human resource division instead. I have no training for this position and I feel vulnerable. Do you think my boss is easing me out because I am a possible threat to him? Do other companies do this? Should I accept this as a challenge?

Challenged Engineer

Organizations today aim to become learning organizations. A common mechanism to achieve this is what they call development assignments. Development assignments are given to high-potential individuals who need to get certain experiences or exposure to develop them from functional specialists to cross-functional generalists. As cross-functional generalists, they become more valuable to the organization.

Learning organizations often give merit increases based on the amount of learning the individual gets over a time period. Then again, with the flattening of organizational hierarchies, the way up may initially be through taking on another function.

If you are an engineer who has handled many successful projects, then you must be a highly valued individual within your organization. You should view your promotion to assistant manager of the human resource division indeed as a challenge. You can view change in two ways, either as a threat or as an opportunity.

The healthy perspective is to look at this appointment as an opportunity. It is an opportunity to learn a very critical discipline called human resource management. The human resource division can definitely be enriched by your experience as an engineer.

Opportunity

Ask yourself, "how do I learn the disciplines in my job as quickly as I can, so that I can start to add value to my new position?" When I took a career shift from mass media to organization development way back in the early 80s, the first thing I did was to get a learning journal. Everyday during my first year, I would note down my questions about the job, my learning, my successes as well as my frustrations. Every time I had to do some work for a client, I would note down the things I did well and the things I could do better. Every time I get a positive note of commendation, I would staple it at the back of the notebook. During moments of discouragement, I would read them and they would give me the lift I needed.

Get a thorough orientation on the human resource functions and systems. You will realize that the new job may not be as difficult as you think. What is important is to keep a positive attitude. Do not be held back by the jargon and language. Ask questions, even naive ones. This curiosity facilitates learning. At the same time, build relationships with the human resource staff, they can be very helpful in orienting you on how to function in your new organization.

Mentor

Look for a mentor. The mentor I got was an expert in the field I was starting to learn. Together, we developed my learning road map. He gave me an indication as to what areas I should learn first, the foundational versus the enhancements. He also guided me through my self-development program. From time to time, I would consult him and with much patience, he would go over the difficult areas with me.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Human resource management has become a recognized body of knowledge. You may have to undergo formal training programs. You are fortunate because many training companies, educational institutions and even professional associations offer short courses that will enable you to skill up very quickly. You can ask higher management to shoulder the expenses for your training.

Hold judgment

You did not say much about the office politics involved in your situation. But if I were in your place I would hold back my judgments on people's intentions for your transfer. Instead, open your mind to doing your very best in the new position. Being assistant manager for human resource management will give you a lot of credibility and visibility in the organization.

Remember what Henry Ford said, "Anyone who stops learning is old whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." All the best.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

EQ PRIMER

EQ competencies are needed in effective leadership

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the third of a series of articles on emotional intelligence.)

SELF-AWARENESS is an essential component of emotional intelligence. Popularly known as EQ, this factor can make or unmake one's career. Dr. Daniel Goleman, in a publication in 2000, identified four dimensions of EQ, which are self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social skills.

Self-awareness

The first dimension, self-awareness, is defined as knowing one's internal states, preferences, resources and intuition. This dimension is shown in the following competencies:

· We are aware of our feelings and emotions and how they affect us. For example, under pressure, one person can become very productive, but another can panic and start screaming at his subordinates.

· We are aware of our strengths and limitations. For example, we know the advantage of patience. But we also know the disadvantages when we don't have a sense of urgency or are satisfied with the way things or don't develop our subordinates fast enough to make them efficient. Knowledge of our strengths and limitations give us motivation to improve.

· We have self-confidence because we know how we contribute to our team. For example, you may not have a very high IQ but you bring effective negotiation skills to the team. Or you can listen well to others and understand their emotions and life situations which make others feel comfortable and open with you.

Self-management

The second dimension, self-management, can also mean self-regulation or self-discipline. It refers to our ability to manage or control our emotions, moods, feelings and impulses so that we can achieve our objectives. This competency is shown in the following actions:

· We are able to keep our negative emotions in check.

· We are able to suspend our judgment until all facts are in.

· We are flexible and can adapt to change because we always try to see the benefits of change and are comfortable with the new, the novel and the unfamiliar.

· We take responsibility for our actions and the consequences of our actions rather than point our finger to someone to blame.

· We have our own standards of integrity and honesty and don't need any one to police us.

· We strive to improve whatever we do; we persist in our efforts to achieve our goals despite setbacks and obstacles.

Social awareness

The third dimension, social awareness, means knowing, recognizing, understanding and appreciating the feelings, needs, concerns and different viewpoints of others.

This is seen in term of behavior as empathy or the ability to "put on the shoes" of the other person so that we can see the situation from his point of view and understand why he feels the way he does. We are able to communicate this understanding to the other person verbally and/or non-verbally. Once the person feels we have understood him, we "take off his shoes from our feet and put back our own shoes" so that we can now help the person look at a situation from our viewpoint. Because he has been understood, he is now open to listen to us and we can then influence him to change his mindsets and perceptions.

From this empathy flows the other manifestations of social awareness which include customer service orientation in which we recognize, anticipate and meet the needs of our internal and external customers, sensing the group's or the organization's emotional climate and power relationships, developing others and contributing to their growth through coaching, mentoring and counseling.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Social skills

The fourth dimension, social skills, enables us to influence the thoughts, feelings and actions of others in order to meet team or organizational goals. Social skills include the following:

· Assertive communication to persuade and convince others to accept a different point of view and taking action accordingly

· Initiating, introducing and managing change

· Negotiating and resolving conflicts to achieve a win-win situation so that both parties are committed to a decision and course of action.

· Collaborating with other groups toward achieving shared goals and vision.

· Effective networking within and outside the organization.

Top management and technical experts used to label these four emotional intelligence competencies as "nice to have." Increasingly, however, these competencies have become vital to leaders of all levels in all organizations-business, religious, NGOs, political-to be effective and to be successful.

(Ms Santamaria is a consultant who provides coaching on EQ competencies. She and her husband Jorge manage Career Systems, Inc., a management consulting and training corporation. Send feedback to carsys@qinet.net)

Technology exec advises, 'Be happy with what you have'

By Cecile G. Garcia

EFREN B. Guanlao, 43-year-old vice president for operations of Microdata Systems and Management, Inc., believes that the secret of happiness is being satisfied with what you have and being grateful for it. He says, "If we're often dissatisfied with what we have, it's because we overextend our reach, aim too high or want too much. I did not plan or dream that I would get this far. I'm one who is easily content. I don't ask much of life." But Guanlao feels that his successful climb up the corporate ladder is a natural by-product of sheer hard work, patience and persistence and dedication. "It has not been easy." He believes that one must never stop learning and keeps abreast of new trends by reading publications and doing self-study during his spare time. "Attending workshops and seminars also helps a lot," he says.

Pioneer

As is the company's most senior employee, he heads its Business Imaging Group, Technical and Operations Department. A pioneer, Guanlao joined Microdata Systems in 1981, 21 years ago, when the firm had just opened its doors. "We started as a servicing firm," says Guanlao, recalling that in the beginning there was just himself and, of course, the owner, Mariano Ang. "Mr. Ang was the salesman and I was the technician."

Microdata Systems is engaged in providing services related to electronic records management, microfilming and the distribution and maintenance of microfilm equipment. Its services include records and data preservation through the conversion of documents to roll films and fiche. Microdata Systems is the top microfilm service provider in the country today. Its other services include sales of presentation equipment and digital imaging systems, rentals of audio-visual equipment, system integration and videoconferencing.

Despite current trends, Guanlao maintains that microfilm remains very much in the mainstream. "Archivists, libraries, banking institutions, government bureaus, airlines, schools and colleges prefer microfilm," says Guanlao, pointing out that these comprise the majority of their clients. "We service them by converting documents to microfilm if they buy equipment from us."

As head of the Business Imaging Group, Guanlao's job includes supervising overall operations, visiting clients, conducting seminars for clients' staff involved in operating microfilm equipments and conducting technical training among company personnel. He also acts as consultant to clients on microfilm operations and procedures. Often, he is asked to redesign microfilming project systems to suit the specific needs of a client.

CAREER TALES

Guanlao describes himself as a technician. "That was my early orientation. My father had an appliance repair shop. You could say I grew up in the trade." He was, in fact, apprenticing in his father's shop even as he was pursuing a three-year course in Electronics Technology at the Technological University of the Philippines.

Career break

While working for his father, Guanlao met the man who would change his life, his future employer, Mariano Ang. "He was a regular customer.

One day, he asked me if I would like to work for him. I said yes because he was very kind and I liked him," recounts Guanlao. "I started as a simple technician," he adds. "Over the years, my employer has given me all the breaks and the support I need."

When Microdata Systems obtained exclusive distributorship of Minolta, Guanlao was sent to Japan for a Technical Training Seminar. He has since gone back a few times for more extensive training. He has been sent to the US as well as for Service Training Courses on Minolta.

GUANLAO PHOTO BY JIM PUNZALAN

Management style

He displays the same easy and relaxed attitude among his personnel. Guanlao has about 30 people under him. His management style, according to him, is a combination of his innate traits as a person and things he has learned and imbibed from the leadership training seminars he attends. "I'm very approachable and flexible. I'm democratic. I mix and mingle with my staff. I talk to them, especially when we're under pressure due to overload of work."

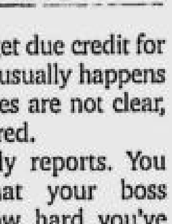
Overloads and deadlines are indeed stressful. Whenever Guanlao feels stressed out, he unwinds by socializing with his staff. But going home and spending time with his family is even better. "Playing with my youngest, my three-year-old boy, is really very relaxing;" says Guanlao who, by the way, has five children with Analen, his wife of 17 years. Guanlao admits that there is nothing more important to him than his family and he does his best to be a good husband and father.

With so much unhappiness and discontentment around, Guanlao is a breath of fresh air. He's a rarity because he's happy and content. Says he, "I believe I would be just as happy if I had a small repair shop like my father."

Stop being a corporate wallpaper

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara



LIFE is not fair. Often, it is not the silent hard worker in the organization that gets noticed and rewarded, it is the trumpet blower who delivers inconsistent work but throws his energy at telling the world about it. You know their kind: flashy, articulate, smooth operators. They know just how to smooch to get on the good side of the boss. Worse, he claims credit for even your work; you slave away quietly while he gets all the credit.

Sound familiar? There are countless workers out there who, no matter how hard they try, just blend into the workplace wallpaper. Many martyr moms allow themselves to be overshadowed, too shy to assert themselves. But getting noticed at work is not a luxury we can forego, it is necessary for us to get ourselves and our work noticed so that we can get the performance appraisal (and possible promotion) we truly deserve.

How do you transform from a corporate wallpaper to an employee that stands out on merit? In the September 2002 issue of Metro Working Mom, N. Amparo writes these simple tips on how to become visible without the embarrassment of grandstanding.

· Get a written job description. Knowing exactly what is expected from you will make it easier for you to deliver those expectations, even exceed them, and get due credit for it. Credit grabbing usually happens when responsibilities are not clear, overlap, or are shared.

· Submit weekly reports. You can't assume that your boss knows exactly how hard you've been working. Use email to your advantage, regularly write progress reports to your boss.

· Take the initiative. If there's anything that a boss would truly appreciate, it's an employee with genuine initiative. Keep yourself abreast of everything that is happening in your department. Offer to help as often as you can, even if it's not strictly part of your job. Approach your work with a gung ho spirit. A good boss will recognize these qualities and remember them come evaluation time.

· Break down your tasks. Upon submitting a paper, presentation, or project, it would help to submit a breakdown of tasks performed. This not only gives your boss a detailed outline of who did what, but also allows him or her to see how your daily tasks contribute to a larger goal. Your supervisor will most likely appreciate this breakdown because it will help him keep track of his staff and assignments completed.

· Speak up. You have no choice. Whether or not speaking before a group comes naturally to you, you will have to let your voice be heard. You don't have to dominate the conversation, just make sure that you put across at least one good idea at a meeting. Keep your contributions short, so that you stay comfortable, but logically sound. Come prepared so that you will be sure your contributions will be helpful.

Getting noticed isn't about turning from Dr. Jekyl to Mr. Hyde. On the contrary, you can stand out and still be yourself. All it takes is a conscious effort of communicating with your boss.

If you'd like more information on how to get through a working mom's balancing act, get this month's issue of Metro Working Mom magazine with Kris Aquino, Zsa Zsa Padilla, and Pops Fernandez on the cover.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. You can write to her at working-mom@pinoycentral.com)

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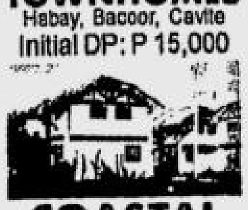

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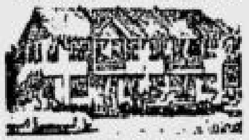

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MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2410-18 P. Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila. Auction Sale on **Sept. 11, 2002**, Wed. at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively, Apr. 13-May 11, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza,
Auctioneer

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City.
AUCTION SALE on **Sept. 11, 2002**, Wed.. at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, respectively Apr. 13-May 11, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza,
Auctioneer

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque, M.M. Auction Sale on **Sept. 11, 2002, Wed.** at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively. Apr. 13-May 11, 2002.
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Never Have I Fallen
(For Aileen P. Raymundo)

Your lips speak soft sweetness
Your touch a cool caress
I am lost in your magic
My heart beats within your chest

Never have I fallen
But I am quickly on my way
You hold my heart in your hands
That has never before been given away

But now, at night I lay and think of you hoping my wishes and dreams come true
At night I wonder can this be the end is this all that's left
At night I wish we could go to the way things were
At night I lay and cry about the things that happened and how it all ended
At night I lay and think of us, I mean you and I
At night I realize there are no more us
At night I dream of us together again
At night I wish for us to be together again
But in the morning I realize it was all
At Night

Aileen Raymundo, there is nothing more than I would ever want other than you. Everything that I have, Everything that I would want in life... was you. I give up all that I have & was, just to have you... Pls. come back, my life is nothing without you...

PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATALINO TAGAMA RASA was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Esperanza G. Aclan of Mabini, Batangas under Doc. No. 2927; Page No. 87; Book No. XXVI; Series of 2002.
PDI-Aug 28 Sept. 4&11, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL C. MARIANO and LILIA M. MARIANO was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc No. 7; Page No. 3; Book III; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Virgilio Nicomedes of Makati.
PDI-Aug 28,Sept. 4&11,2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given for the loss of two (2) booklets of PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS with series numbers: Provisional receipts nos. 80151 to 80200 Provisional receipt nos. 40401 to 40450 Owned by **Equitable Securities (Phil.) Inc.** Note: The abovementioned receipts are not consumed.
(PDI-Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4, 2002)

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

To us she was love

ANA ONGLATCO TAN

(November 5, 1922 - September 2, 2002)

To John & Evelyn, Tony & Cynthia, Beth & Joseph and Teddy & Vhia, she was mother.

To Jay, Allen, Anton, Bryan, Karl, Alvin, Anthea and Alaric, she was Ah-mah.

To others, she was a wife, a daughter, a sister, a mentor, an inspiration, a friend

Today and forevermore, she will always be in our hearts.

Her body will lie in state at the Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows, Quezon City until Saturday, September 7, 2002 and will be laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park before noon.

In loving memory of our beloved mother...

Angelita "Helen" V. Del Mundo

Peacefully passed away to rest in the loving embrace of our Lord on September 2, 2002 at the age of 90.

She is survived by her children **Eliezer & Evangeline Del Mundo, Pastor Roger & Raquel Pangilinan, Dr. Rene & Linda Florcruz, Dr. Esmeraldo & Judith Cordova** and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Jose Rizal Room, La Funeraria Paz (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

Praise and prayer service is being held every evening at 7:00 PM.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 8, 2002, at the Ala-Ala Memorial Park, Pagsanjan, Laguna after the 10:00 AM service at the United Evangelical Church of Pagsanjan.

"Come, blessed of the Father, says the Lord Jesus, and take possession of the kingdom prepared for you." Matthew 23:24

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

CONCORDIA "CORDING" CABREROS ABAD

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 2, 2002 at the age of 75.

Her loving husband **Max**; children **Telly & Willy, Ester & Boyet, Arturo & Millie, Tim, Tony & Fe, Lin-lin & Lynette, Evelyn & Vir, Jun-Jun & Carol, Edgar & Rose, & Vangie**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque. Her body will be flown to Cebu on Thursday morning, September 5, 2002. Interment will be on Saturday, September 14, 2002 in Bogo, Cebu after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Beloved Mommy

IMELDA ABAD-MARTINEZ GELLEGANI

has peacefully joined our Creator on September 2, 2002 at the age of 67.

Together with our loving daddy **ROBERTO G. GELLEGANI SR.**; we her children **BAMBI & FERDIE, BOBBY & CARINA, PETER, RONEIL & GINA, MINA & JUN, RHODA & JOHN**; her grandchildren **ROBICK, ROBYN & ROXYN; KATYA, PACO, GABBY & KARA; MICO; JIO, HANS & IAN**; and other relatives and friends request you to pray for her on her eternal journey with our Lord.

Her remains now lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 8, 2002 at Heaven's Gate II, Antipolo City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Love Chapel (Arlington).

FR. JOSEPH F. O'BRIEN, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Tuesday, 3 September 2002.

Wake: Tuesday until Thursday at Immaculate Conception Chapel, Gonzaga Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Thursday afternoon his body will be brought to Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 PM. A special memorial Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, 4 September at Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Center, Makati.

Funeral Mass: at 8:00 AM on Friday, 6 September in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Quezon City immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

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INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Stab' in the dark

Q. How exactly can a mosquito find you in the dark night?

A. By your breath. Mosquitoes have carbon dioxide sensors with which they measure the concentration of CO_2 in the air. They locate a breather by following the concentration gradient to where the gas is most abundant. Once these fliers are close, they use heat sensors to zero in on skin that is thin and well-supplied with capillaries (tiny blood vessels connecting the arteries with the veins). The tube with which they pierce is so narrow that they may not hit a capillary on the first try, and so may be seen to putter around a bit before actually getting down to business. It takes several minutes for them to fill up. So that blood doesn't solidify before they are finished, they drool a bit of anti-coagulant into the hole.

For the Record. Usually the amount of blood outward-bound through arteries is the same amount as the amount of blood returning through veins. But there is one kind of tissue especially designed to swell with blood. Genitals -- a male's penis or a female's vulva -- contain erectile tissue that can swell or harden because more blood is coming in than going out.

Pinoy First. The first telephone system in Manila was established in 1890, with 170 original paid subscribers. The first three telephone numbers were:

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Telephone No. 3	Arzobispado (Palacio), Arzobispo 1

WORD WATCH

Fax (faks) : short for *facsimile*, the transmission and reproduction of printer matter, photographs, etc., by radio or telegraph.'

PDI – September 4, 2002

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Regional Operation and Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-10B

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 11, 2002; 2:00 PM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
A1	1 LOT	FUSE UNIT & DISCONNECTING SWITCH	3CNA-02-080
A2	1 SET	POWER CIRCUIT BREAKER	30PO-02-022

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) **A1 - September 26, 2002; 10:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room**
2) **A2 - September 26, 2002; 11:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room**

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting **September 5, 2002.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration
Transco South

(PDI – Sept 4 2002)

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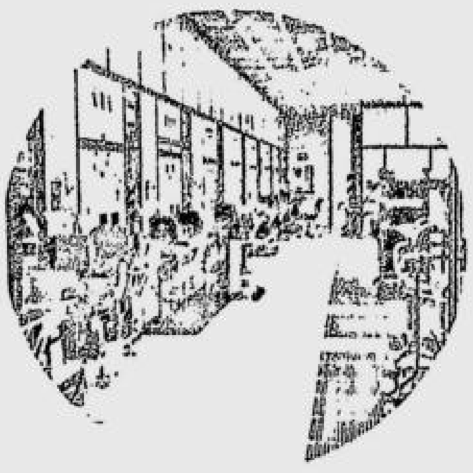

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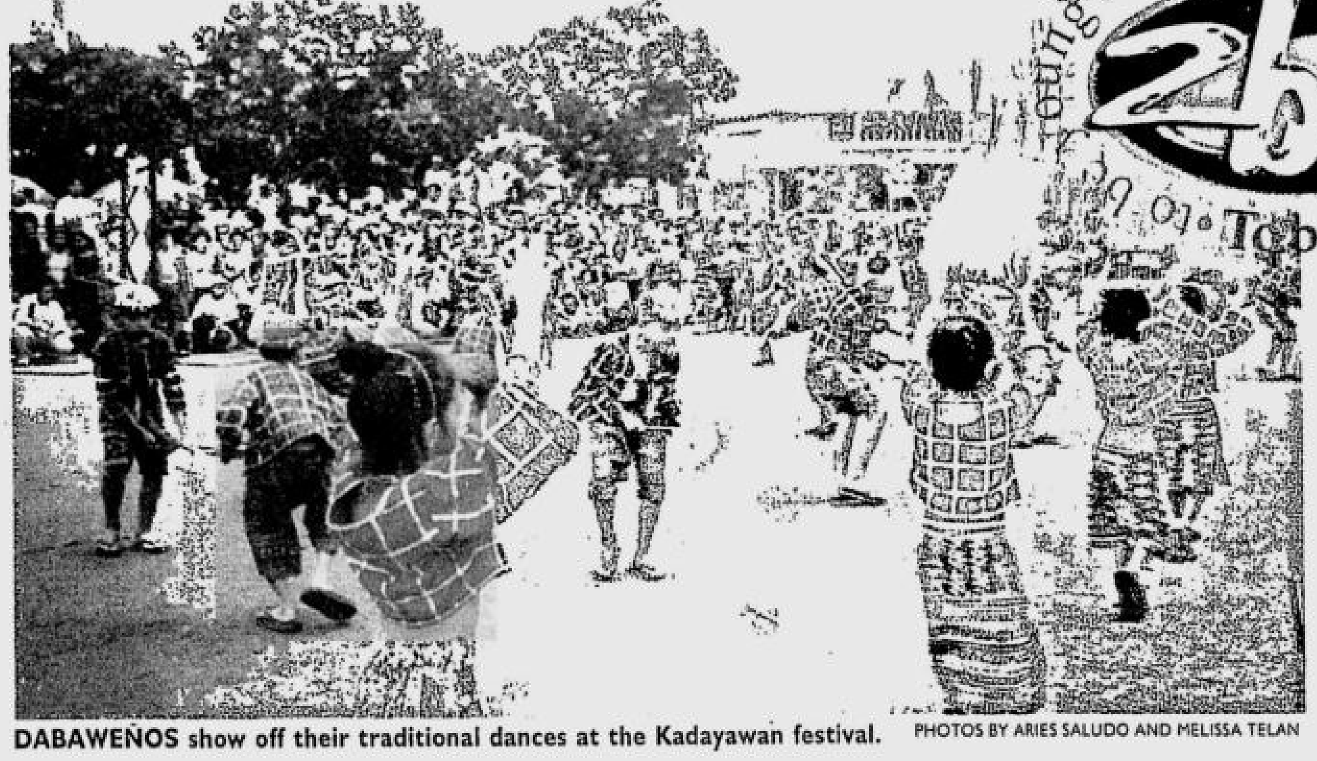

DABAWEÑOS show off their traditional dances at the Kadayawan festival. PHOTOS BY ARIES SALUDO AND MELISSA TELAN

Davao during the Kadayaw n restiv ll one ll night-p r

The durian chronicles

Pat ok

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio and Melissa Anne M. Telan
2bU! Correspondents, Ateneo de Manila University

IT was a good thing we found out we were going to Davao, courtesy of Smart, only three days before the trip, because it didn't give us much time to stand around with gaping jaws and wide eyes. Then again, it was virtually impossible not to do backflips in sheer elation.

Aug. 22

6:35 p.m.

The minute we stepped off the plane, the pungent but welcoming aroma of durian wafted in our nostrils, reminding us that we weren't in smog-infested Manila anymore. For the next few days we would be seeing, eating and breathing in durian of all forms and preparations, from coffee to ice cream to cheesecake. The Dabaweños really are a creative lot when it comes to concocting uses for their trademark fruit.

6:50 p.m.

We were met by Bing Kimpo of DDB Phils. and Roel Manipon of the Daily Tribune. We were brought to the Marco Polo Hotel. On the way, Bing supplied us with trivia about the city (which is actually the biggest in the world!), and we found out that smoking in public is prohibited. For us non-smokers, that piece of news was refreshing. Now, why can't we have that in Metro Manila? Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte certainly deserves two thumbs and two big toes up.

8:30 p.m.

Our group headed to Kanaway, a quaint beachfront seafood restaurant, for dinner with people from Smart. The sumptuous spread was a nice welcome, although Melissa passed up on the tangy *kinilaw* while Angela happily built up her cholesterol levels with two orders of *chicharon bulaklak*. Perhaps it was the combination of fatigue and the cool ocean breeze courtesy of al fresco dining that that did wonders to our meal, not to mention the enlightening conversation about the mysteries of courtship, heartaches and Philosophy 101.

Aug. 23

9 a.m.

While waiting for our food during breakfast

THE DURIAN/ p.C2

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Demonstration / Student Participation Classes

Getting Ready For The Holidays 3 September 16, Monday, 1:30 - 5:00 pm Chocolate Carrot Cake, Christmas Fruitcake, Cocoa Powder Brownies Version 2, Irresistible Chocolate Muffins, Holiday Butter Cookies Version 2 Tuition Fee -- P850

In Time For The Holidays 3 September 17, Tuesday, 1:30 - 5:00 pm Ham and Cheese Mini Muffin, Corn Mini Muffin, Lemon Poppy Seed Mini Muffin, Fudge Brownie with Assorted Toppings, Old Fashioned Boat Tart with Caramel Filling Tuition Fee -- P850

Kakanin Atbp. 1 September 18, Wednesday, 1:30 - 5:00 pm Suman Sa Lihiya, Biko/Bibingkang Malagkit, Haleyang Ube, Cheese Pichi Pichi, Cassava Bibingka Version 2 Tuition Fee -- P750

Yeast Breads 3 September 19, Thursday, 1:30 - 5:00 pm Asado Roll, Baked Siopao, Cheese Bread, Rustic Pizza, Cuapao Tuition Fee -- P750

Sariling Atin 2 September 25, Wednesday, 1:30 - 5:00 pm Custard Cake with Macapuno and Dayap, Inipit, Sumang Malagkit with Latik, Ubeng Biko with Cheese Topping, Maja with Pandan and Corn Tuition Fee -- P800

Sugar Free Series 1 September 26, Thursday, 1:30 - 5:00 pm Reduced Fat Sugar Free Cheesecake, Grilled Magnolia Chicken Thigh Fillet and Vegetable Salad with Herb Vinaigrette, Fish Steaks with Fresh Pineapple Sauce and Coriander, Reduced Fat Shrimp and Macaroni Salad, Vegetarian Tacos with Mexican Salsa, Nestle 0% Fat Yogurt and Fruit Trifle with Walnuts Tuition Fee -- P1000

2-in-1 Classes

How To Set Up a Coffee Bar and Desserts In Miniature September 28, Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm Bring out the entrepreneur in you. We will teach you how to go about setting up your own coffee bar, what machines to buy, what type of beans to purchase including a presentation on costs and viability. As a bonus, we will be offering a wide array of hot and cold coffee concoctions straight from the kitchen of Allegro Beverage Corporation. And to complete the package, we will be demonstrating desserts to go with the coffee. Tuition Fee -- P1,400 lunch included

Decoupage Box and Cookies to Pack September 30, Monday, 10 am - 5 pm A hands-on art class on how to transform a simple brown box to an amazing work of art using the decoupage technique. Students will be making their own decoupage box to bring home. In the afternoon, various cookies will be demonstrated including how to wrap and pack them in the newly decorated box. Tuition Fee -- P1,200 lunch included

Classes at Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestle Building, Rockwell Center, Makati City

Christmas Menu 4 September 10, Tuesday, 9 am - 1 pm Roast Chicken with Two Kinds of Dressing, Herb Roast Pork with Potatoes, Green Salad, Candied Yams, Cream of Potato Soup with Leeks Tuition Fee -- P1,000

From Soup To Dessert 2 September 12, Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm Cheese Chowder, Fruit Stuffed Magnolia Chicken, Roast Beef with Peppercorn Crust, Fish Salad, Fried Banana Rolls Ala Mode Tuition Fee -- P1,000

Getting Ready For The Holidays 4 September 14, Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm Apple Pie, Pandan Sans Rival, Carrot-Zucchini-Apple Loaf, Food For The Gods 2, Apple Bars Tuition Fee -- P850

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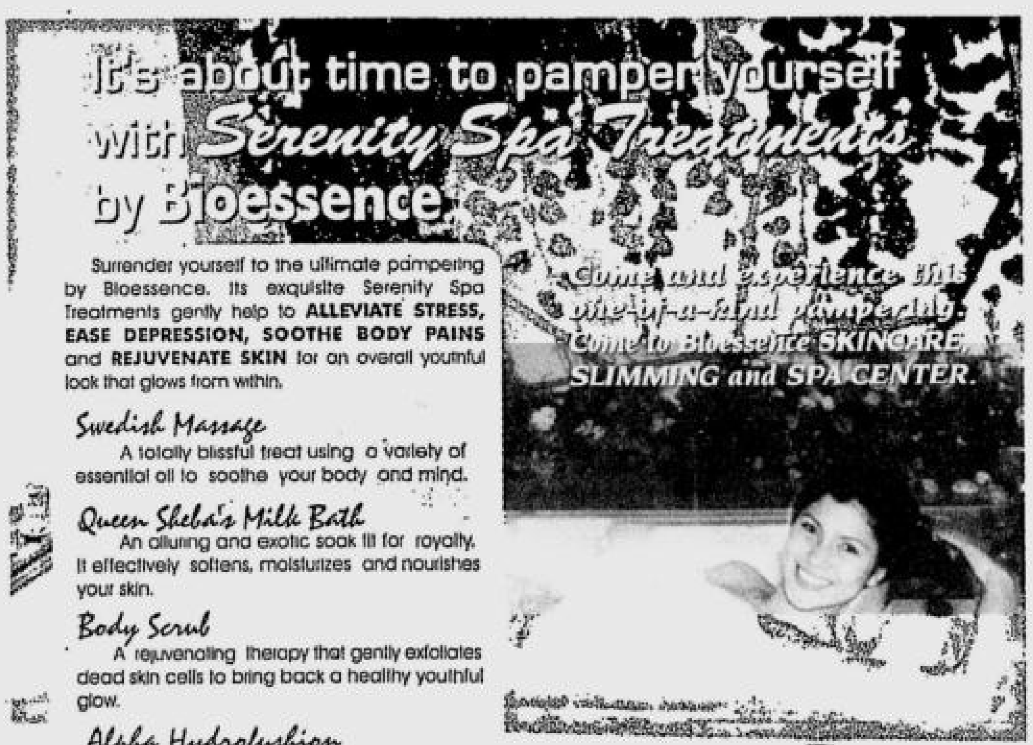
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Food-tripping in Davao

First-timers should not miss Larcepuccino Durian, a superbly brewed coffee with the slightly bitter aftertaste of durian

MAYBE it was the smell of durian or the excitement of spending four blissful days outside Metro Manila despite the oral examinations and endless paperwork waiting for our return. Whatever it was, we were ready to sample whatever culinary treat Davao had to offer.

Kanaway Seafood Restaurant

For the ultimate seafood dining experience, Kanaway offers open-air dining, a picturesque view of the ocean and the freshest seafood. The place is easy on the wallet with prices ranging from P40-P100 and the ample servings are enough for 3-4 people. Must-try dishes are tuna belly (Melissa's favorite), *gambas* and tuna *panga*. Angela recommends the *chicharon bulaklak*, which has just the right mix of saltiness and that crispy-*kunat* texture.

Blugré

This coffee shop offers a cozy ambience, unique coffee concoctions, and mouthwatering pastries to go with them. People say that Blugré is Davao's version of Starbucks. Prices at Blugré are somewhat lower but then the servings are also smaller.

First-timers in Davao should not miss the coffee shop's famous Larcepuccino Durian, a superbly brewed coffee with the slightly bitter aftertaste of durian lending the concoction a sharp edge. Angela recommends the Larcepuccino white mocha to white chocolate lovers that goes well with, according to Melissa, the chocolate torte, a moist cake floating in creamy milk sauce. "Sheer, absolute heaven," she sighs.

Colasa's Bar-B-Q

The secret to a truly hearty dining experience is to forego the eating utensils and eat *mano-mano*. At Colasa's Bar-B-Q, a laid-back *carinderia*-type barbecue house, eating by hand seems the most natural thing to do.

We had the most fun with the juicy barbecued *pecho* and *isad* (the chicken's behind), the house specials.

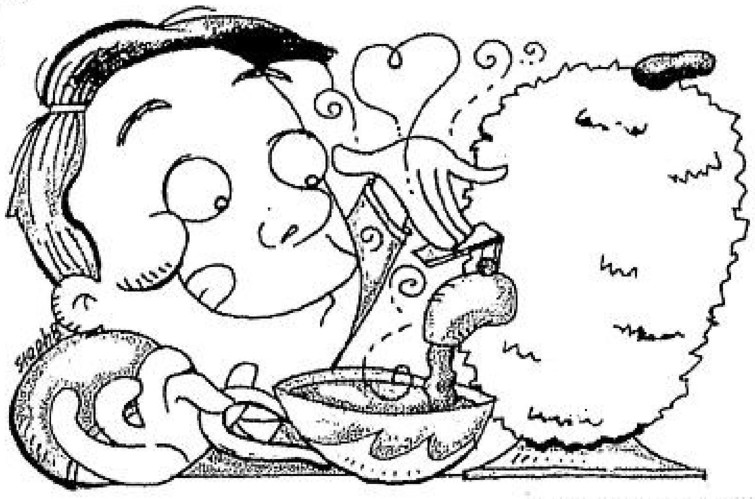


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Luz Kinilaw

For the best *kinilaw* (raw fish marinated in vinegar) in Davao, according to the locals, make a beeline to Luz Kinilaw on Magsaysay Boulevard.

Surprisingly, it was not the *kinilaw* that we raved about but other dishes—*inihaw na pusit* (Angela's favorite), *inihaw na bangus*, tuna *panga*. The place—wooden tables, thatched roof and all—had a rustic ambience and the food faintly reminded us of our *lola's* cooking. To cap the delightful meal, we had the smelly durian fruit for dessert—a fitting finale. ***Angela Ignacio and Melissa Telan, 2bU! Correspondents***

The durian chronicles

From page C1

at Dencia's, a Chinese restaurant, we chanced upon an article on the vampire scare (the hot issue that had Davao in a frenzy), which to our surprise posted the "vampire's" cell phone number. We knew it was a scam, but we dialed the number anyway. What greeted us was a pathetic attempt at a guttural growl.

10:30 a.m.

We went to Magsaysay Park to check out the agro-industrial trade fair set up especially for the Kadayawan festival. While there, we picked up a few things about the festival.

Derived from the Dabaweño word *dayaw* meaning "good," the Kadayawan festival is an annual weeklong event of thanksgiving for "the gifts of nature, the wealth of culture and the serenity of life." Activities of the festival include floral float parades, horse fighting and indigenous dances.

Meanwhile, the sun felt like it was boring holes into our skins. After few more shops and empty mineral water bottles, we went back to the van, Angela blissfully toting her newly bought *pasalubong* in contrast to Melissa who was sadly empty-handed.

11:30 a.m.

By now we were itching to sample the durian coffee we had been hearing so much about, so we went to Blugré Coffee (the "Starbucks of Davao") at SM City. We gorged on different coffee concoctions and an array of desserts (a "food orgy," as Smart marketing events manager Miles Inocentes put it).

Meanwhile Jasper Calma, Smart Telecenter manager, enlightened us on the vampire issue. Apparently a pretty nurse from London who lived in Cotabato fled to Davao when the authorities found out she had hacked her kids to death and eaten them. She was allegedly caught at one point but escaped using her shape-shifting powers. An unlikely story, but creepy nonetheless.

8 p.m.

We met up with the freelance writer Aries Saludo, Manila Standard's Mariecar Jara-Puyod, BusinessWorld's Raoul Chee Kee, and friend Mary Ann Olaya to watch the Parokya ni Edgar concert at Taboan in Matina Town Square (or MTS; it's similar to Metro Manila's Eastwood City). After the opening act by a local band named Singles, Parokya kicked off the show with their hilarious new commercial for Smart Buddy PureTxT 100, then proceeded to blow us away with song after incredible song. The phrases "raise the roof" and "bring the house down" were understatements as far as the screaming audience was concerned.

1 a.m.

After a short interview, Parokya invited us to eat at Colasa's Bar-B-Q. They were warm and friendly, and kidded around with us like a typical bunch of older brothers. One particularly sidesplitting moment was when a waiter's tray crashed to the floor; everyone fell silent, then suddenly the guys started singing, "Happy birthday to you..." Comedians, they undoubtedly were.

2:30 a.m.

We hied off to Up North Bar in MTS for a few drinks, and we learned that there was a third stanza to Parokya's popular version of "Harana," among other things. We were already getting drowsy, so we reluctantly went back to the hotel.

To our surprise, some of the guys were still up for some room-hopping, so we all hung out in each other's rooms and watched TV till the wee hours of the morning. No wonder we looked like raccoon roadkill the next day. Then again, how often does Parokya come knocking on your door at 4 a.m.?

Aug. 24

We were so pooped from the previous day's events that we just grabbed a bite for lunch and spent most of the day resting in our hotel. Come nighttime, we were back in business.

We dropped by The Venue (The Fort's counterpart) to catch the Side A concert, and they were nothing short of fabulous. They sang mostly hit pop songs (their rendition of Mandy Moore's "Cry" was our personal favorite), which showed they were still very much in tune with today's fickle generation. Most of us weren't in the mood for bar-hopping anymore, so we decided to call it a night shortly after.

Aug. 25

3 p.m.

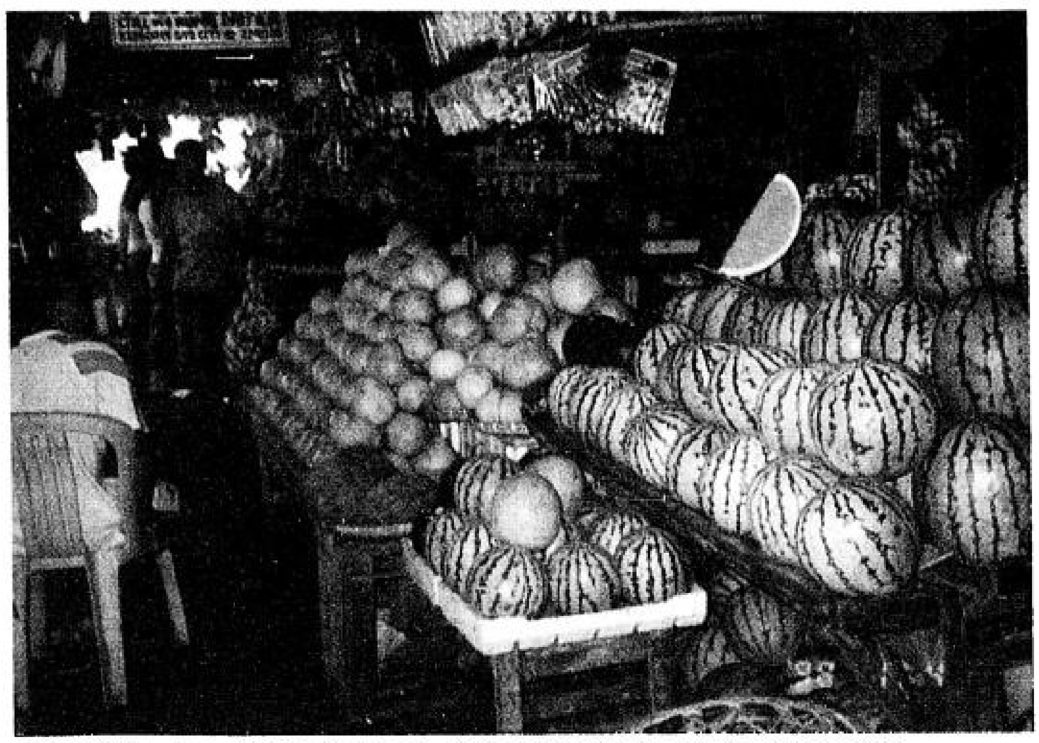
After a quick brunch, we watched the flower float parade in front of the hotel and did some last-minute shopping at Aldevinco shopping center. We visited the Philippine Eagle Farm where the country's famous avians like Pag-asa lived, then headed to Jack's Ridge (think Tagaytay) for an early dinner. Talk about making up for lost time.

7:30 p.m.

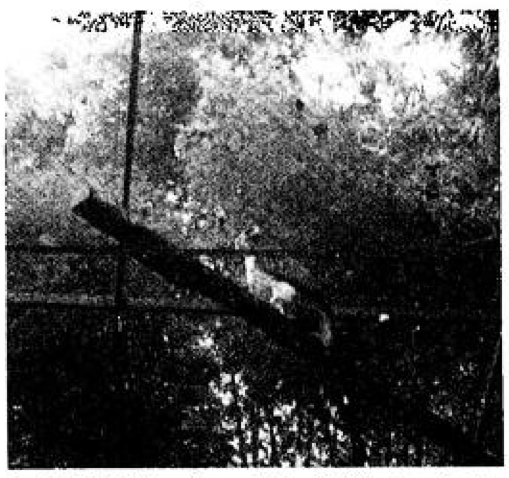
We feared that we might miss our flight because of the heavy downpour, but we made it just in time. Both of us were wearing vague, silly smiles on our faces as we waved goodbye to durian country. Whether we were thinking of the same things or not, it all boiled down to one—these past four days were the most fun we had had in eons. If only the hotel had let us bring home a fluffy comforter or two.

E-mail the authors at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com (Angela) and melissatelan@yahoo.com (Melissa)

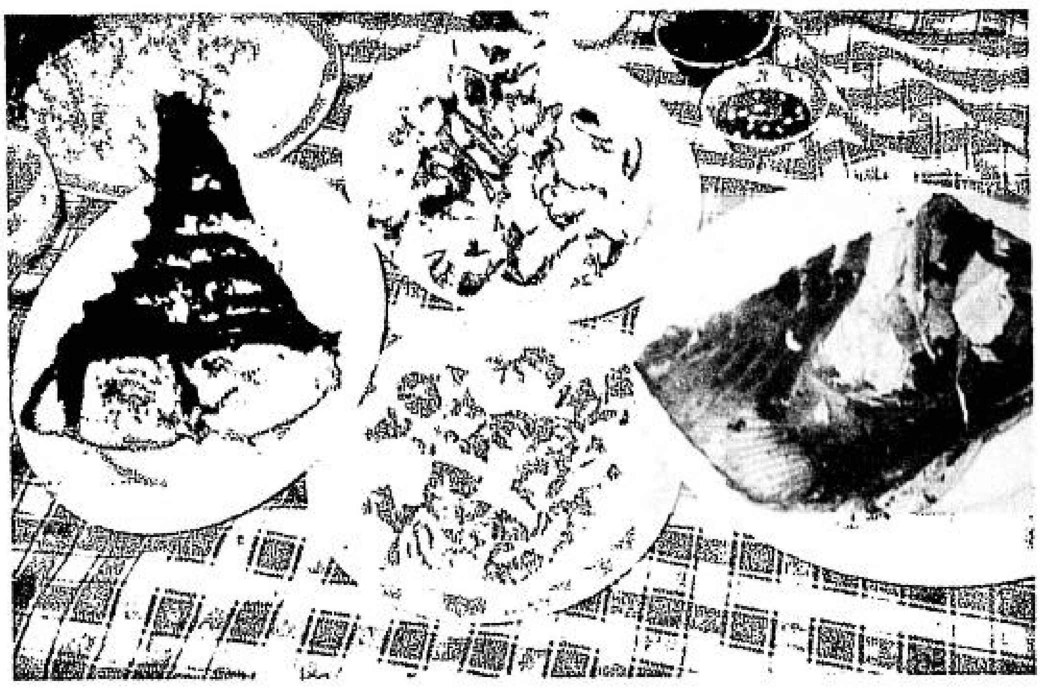
JOSHING around with Parokya ni Edgar's Chito and Buwi

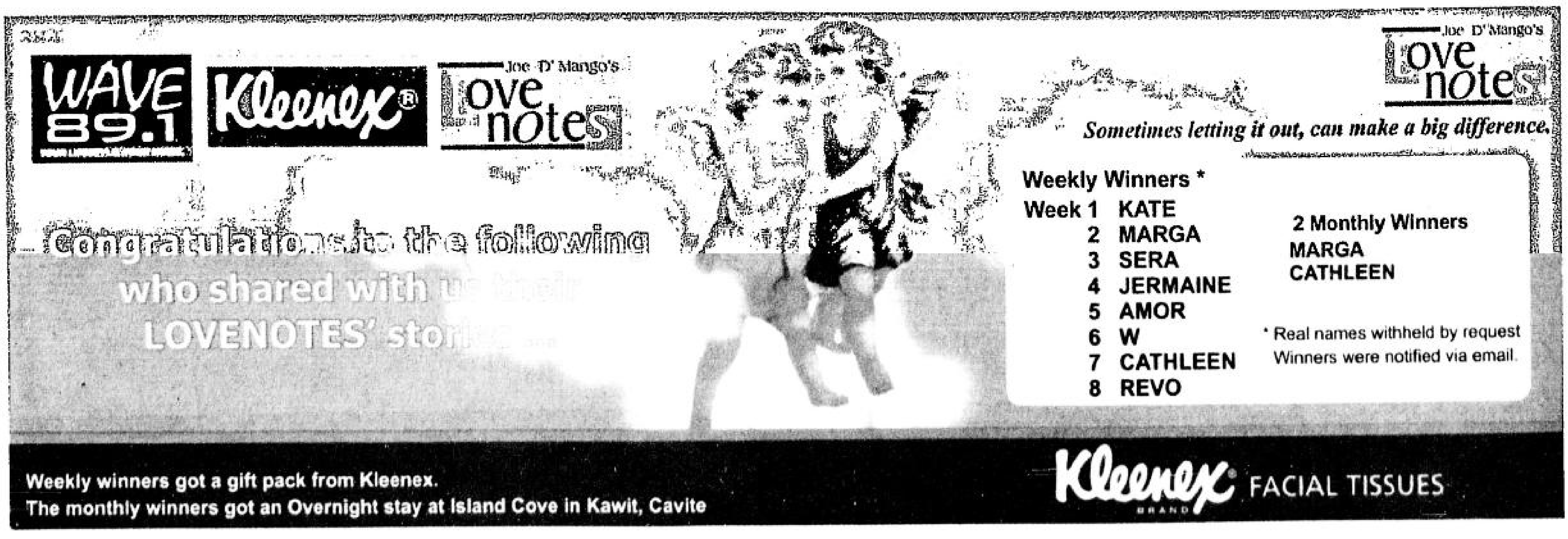

COLORFUL array of fruits in season—just in time for the Kadayawan festival

CHECKING out the beads at the trade fair in Magsaysay Park


A RESIDENT avian at the Philippine Eagle Park

A CROCODILE grins for the camera


A SAMPLING of Davao's seafood feast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THE AUTHORS with Parokya ni Edgar

Parokya ni Edgar gets serious

WE caught Parokya ni Edgar's smashing performance at Matina Town Square in Davao Aug. 23, which launched their comical new TV ad for Smart Buddy PureTxT 100 with hot model Brad Turvey. The venue was filled to capacity, and the fans clamored for more.

After the concert, we had a quick interview with the band at the Marco Polo Hotel. Parokya members are the nicest, most down-to-earth guys who have ever taken the music industry by storm. They are also the zaniest people we have ever met.

Here's how our chat with vocalists Chito "The Boy Wonder" and Vinci "The Pagkain Guy," guitarists Gabriel "BBJ" and "Darling" Darius, bassist Buwi "The Shakable Nougat" (don't ask us where he got his nickname, we're as bewildered as you are) and drummer "Suave" Dindin went.

Was this your first gig in Davao?

No, we've done a total of seven shows in five venues before. This is our second in Taboan [at Matina Town Square].

How do you feel about playing in Taboan?

*Sobrang saya! Hindi namin ine-*expect *na ganoon ka-*riot. *Nagkagulo nga sa labas, eh.* There were many more people outside but they couldn't get in because of the tight security, so *nabitin kami*. We wanted more people to stand up.

Taboan's theme is all about artistic freedom. Any thoughts on that?

For us, it's doing whatever you want. *Hindi nga lang kami makapagwala*... because [the show] is sponsored by Smart.

So you mean *sa lagay na 'yon* you were still behaved?

Yeah. (They grin innocently but an image of Chito pretending to undo his belt buckle while singing "Don't Touch My Birdie" comes to mind.)

Tell us about your newest album.

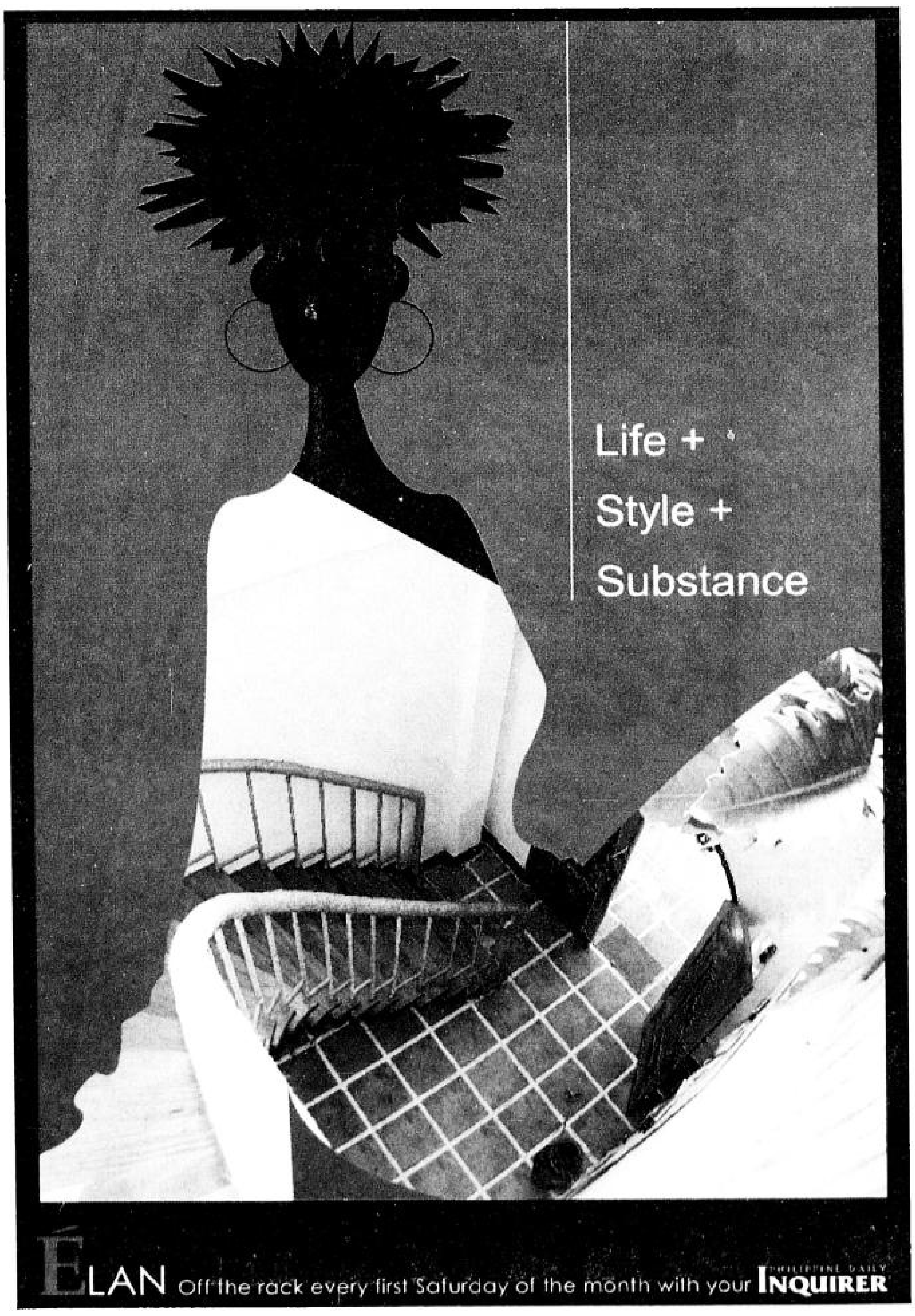
Ito yung pinakaseryoso at pinakamabigat naming album. If you compare it with our past albums, it's non-commercial; the lyrics are more personal.

* * *

Chito scribbles something on Angela's notebook, his Benicio del Toro eyes narrows even more in concentration. "*Kaya ko'ng magsulat pabaliktad*, see?" he says a moment later, proudly holding up his handiwork. Sure enough, when we held it up to a mirror, we were able to make out the words: "*Medyo personal. Pinaka-personal na album.*" Now that's a statement. ***Angela Ignacio and Melissa Telan, 2bU! Correspondents***

Parokya ni Edgar's fifth and latest album, "Edgar, Edgar Musikahan," is now available in record bars

E-mail the authors at aoshi_no_miko@ hotmail.com (Angela) and melissatelan@ yahoo.com (Melissa)



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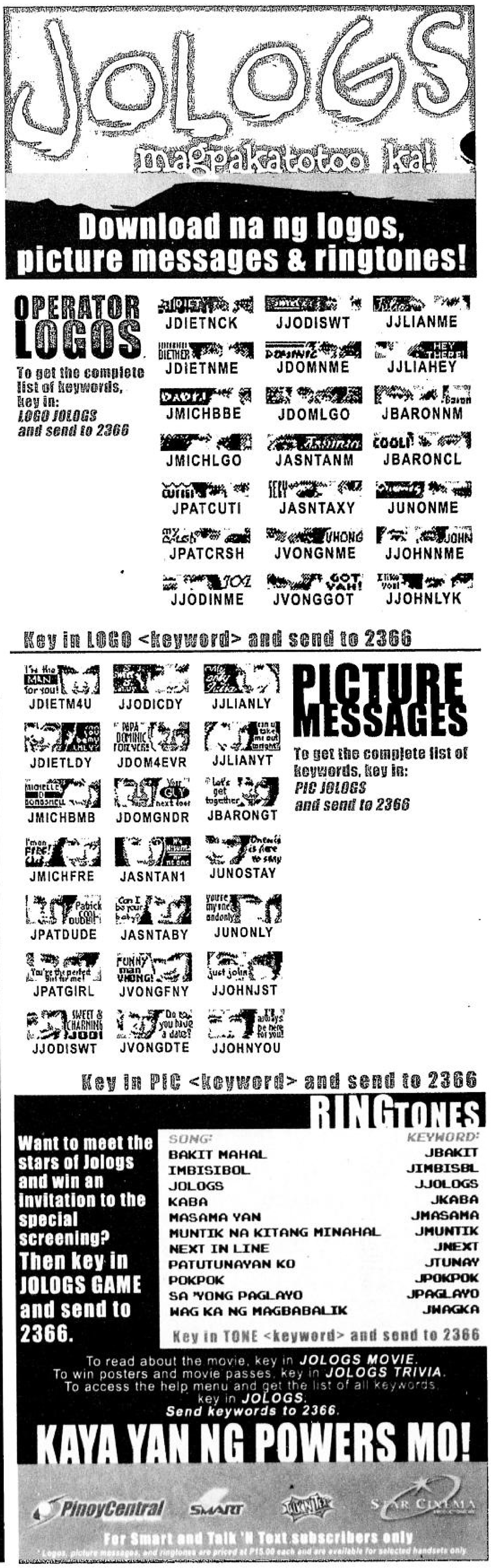

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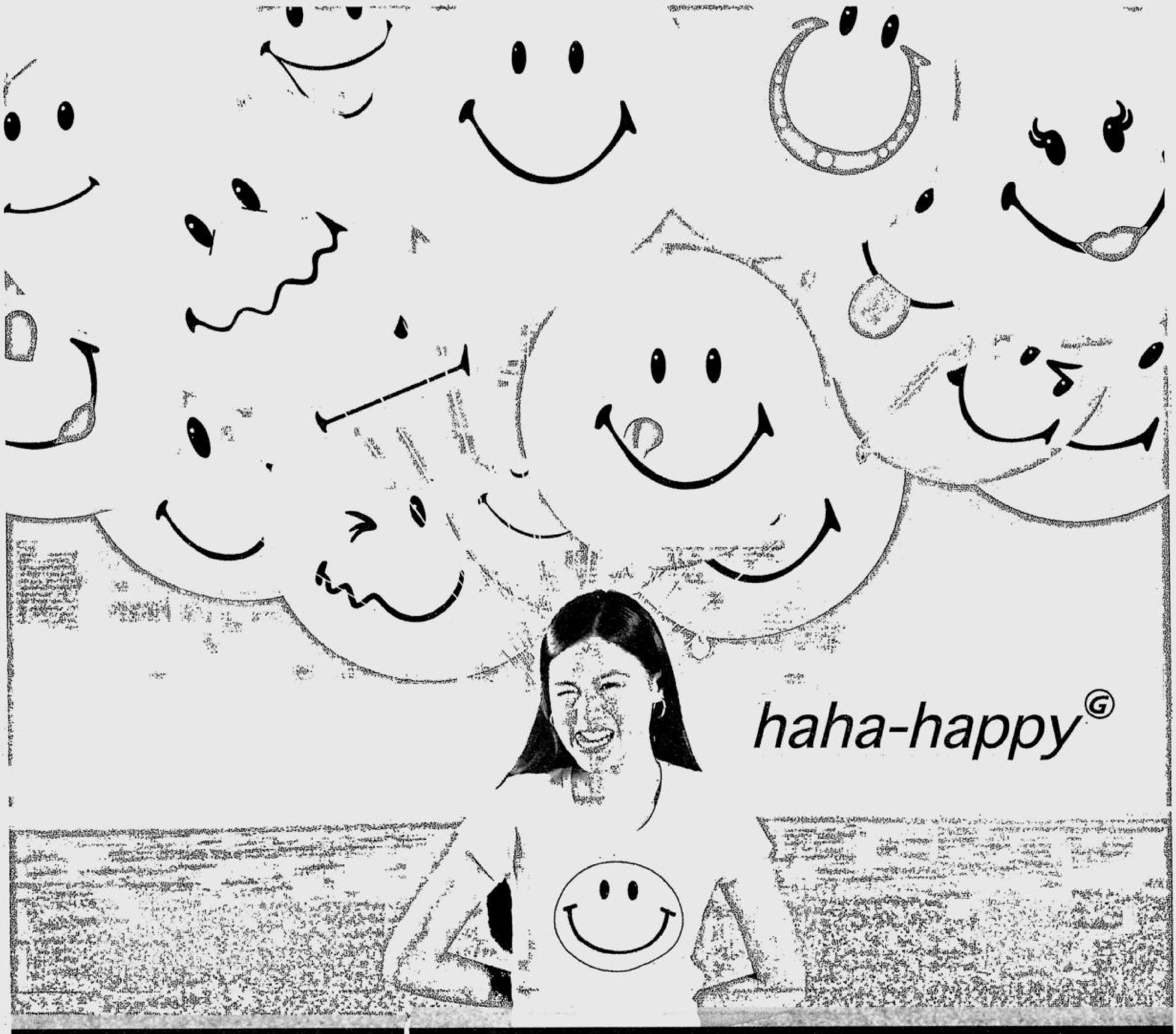

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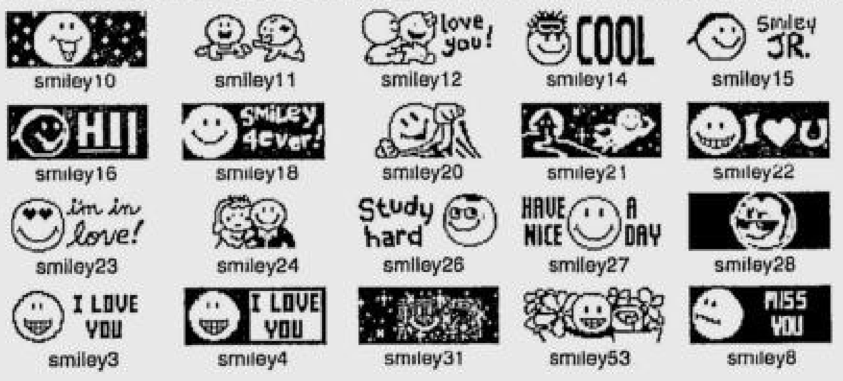
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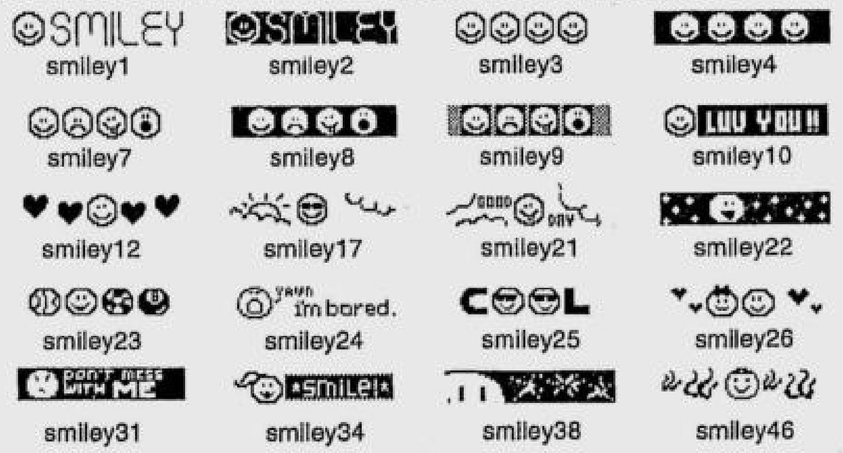
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smiley22
smiley23
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PRAISE YOU	praiseyou	FATBOY SLIM
RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW	righther	FATBOY SLIM
ROCKFELLA SKANK	rockfela	FATBOY SLIM
GANGSTER TRIPPING	gangster	FATBOY SLIM
THIS I PROMISE YOU	thisipro	NSYNC
BECAUSE I GET HIGH	igethigh	AFROMAN
WHAT CAN I DO	whatcani	THE CORRS
FULL MOON	fullmoon	BRANDY
ALL YOU WANTED	youwanted	MICHELLE BRANCH
HOW YOU REMIND ME	howyoure	NICKELBACK
BLURRY	blurry	PUDDLE OF MUD
SOAK UP THE SUN	soakup	SHERYL CROW
ONLY HOPE	onlyhope	MANDY MOORE
I NEED YOU	ineedyou	LEANNE RHYMES
A THOUSAND MILES	athousan	VANESSA CARLTON
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For icons, type in **L (keyword) (mobile number).**
Ex: L smiley27 09171234567
For tones, type in **N (keyword) (mobile number).**
Ex: N geturfre 09171234567

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Sendo: J520 (using Nokia keywords)

TEXT CARDS SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS:
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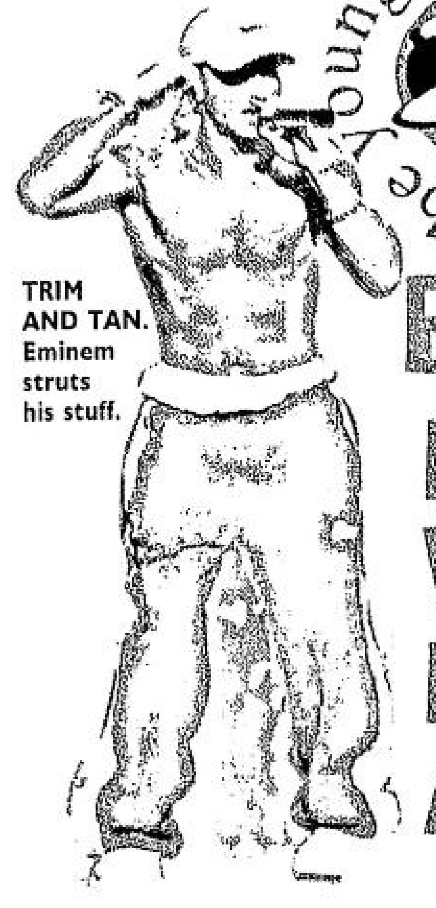
LIFESTYLE



TRIM AND TAN. Eminem struts his stuff.

Backstage at the MTV Video Music Awards

By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor

OKAY. So Britney didn't cavort with a snake. Wacko Jacko didn't lock lips with Lisa Marie Presley. Courtney Love didn't hurl stuff at Madonna. And Diana Ross didn't, um, get jiggy with Lil' Kim's boobie.

This year's MTV Video Music Awards, held last week at New York City's Radio City Music Hall, might have been bereft of the outrageous, made-for-reality-TV moments that had made the irreverent show so fun. But it did have some quasi-memorable flashes of chutzpah that were enough to keep viewers tuned in and audience members amused.

Eminem, the night's big winner (with four awards including best video of the year), was booed for calling sexually ambiguous musician Moby "Moby-girl." Comic-vivant host Jimmy Fallon left viewers in stitches with a quick-change opening number that parodied several of the nominees (my favorite: his spot-on Enrique Iglesias impersonation, complete with a freakily sized mole on his face). And birthday boy Michael Jackson thanked MTV for the "Artist of the Millennium Award" that he bestowed upon himself after Britney Spears presented him with a birthday cake and called him the artist of the millennium. (MTV didn't announce any such award before the event, nor did the network list it in the post-awards press release.)

The INQUIRER was at the red carpet and in the pressroom to catch all the zany, behind-the-scenes shenanigans at Radio City Music Hall. Here is our exclusive peep at what went on onstage, as well as what the cameras didn't catch.

Clothes encounters of the third kind

Okay Britney, it's official: your fashion sense sucks. Spears, along with a bevy of stars, starlets and fallen stars, paraded a profusion of fashion disasters that made one want to start a disaster relief fund for the sartorially impaired. Spears looked like a rejected dominatrix, donning a heinous mini leather ensemble complete with kinky boots and a gay-butch biker cap. And one-time Spears rival Christina Aguilera erased all doubts as to who lost the pop-princess battle by showing up in a barely-there ghetto-trash number that looked like she wrapped a tourniquet around her suddenly blossoming bosom. (Her outfit elicited the loudest hisses from reporters backstage.)

"They all look hot," designer Calvin Klein told the INQUIRER of the night's attendees as he walked down the red carpet. "It's all very personal, it's about individual style. They know exactly what they're doing." Apparently, he blinked and missed Aguilera.

Quirky accessory a necessity

The evening's hottest trend? Quirky accessories—and we don't mean the diamonds-and-pearls kind.

Ja Rule strutted into the theater wearing a kid on his shoulders. Award winners Pink and Michelle Branch seemed to have foregone handbags for liquor. (While receiving her best dance video award, Pink wildly declared that "I'm too drunk for this," and Branch announced onstage that she was more drunk than Pink.) And Brittany Murphy, the "I'll never tell" girl in the hit movie "Don't Say a Word," decided to tote Listerine strips. The burden of proof? A blue tongue while talking to reporters backstage.

Ex marks the spot

Aw, they're so sweet: celebrity couples walking hand-in-hand on the red carpet and flashing gooey-eyed looks at each other. Oh wait; that must have been another awards show. This year's MTV Video Music Awards featured a host of high-profile celebrity flameouts—from J. Lo and P. Diddy to Jackson and Presley—all of whom avoided bumping into each other on the red carpet more fervently than record buyers steered clear of Jackson's latest album.

Former teen-pop couple Spears and Justin Timberlake spaced their arrivals within minutes of each other, and neither stopped to speak with the press (except MTV, of course). Even former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani was given the cold shoulder. Entertainment Weekly reported that the ex-mayor's ex-wife, from whom he is estranged after having a tabloid-worthy extramarital affair with another woman, refused to clap when he was introduced.

Vote of confidence

Icy ex-wives aside, Giuliani proved to be the true class act he has always been. The former mayor received the biggest applause when he entered the pressroom, and then went on to charm those present with his wit and humor. When asked by a reporter what CD was in his stereo, he replied: "Tosca." Then—poking fun

BACKSTAGE/ p. D3

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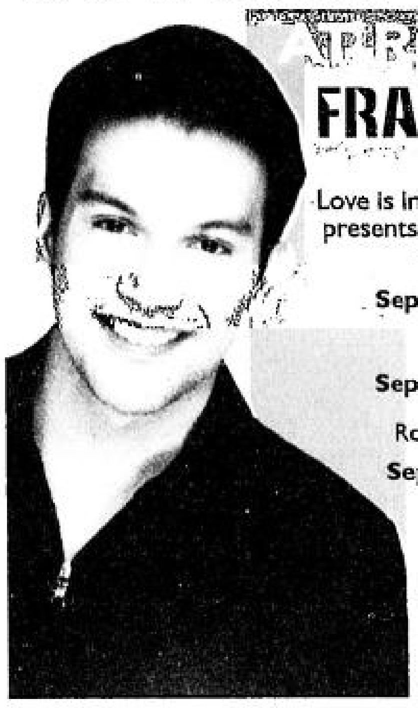
WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS



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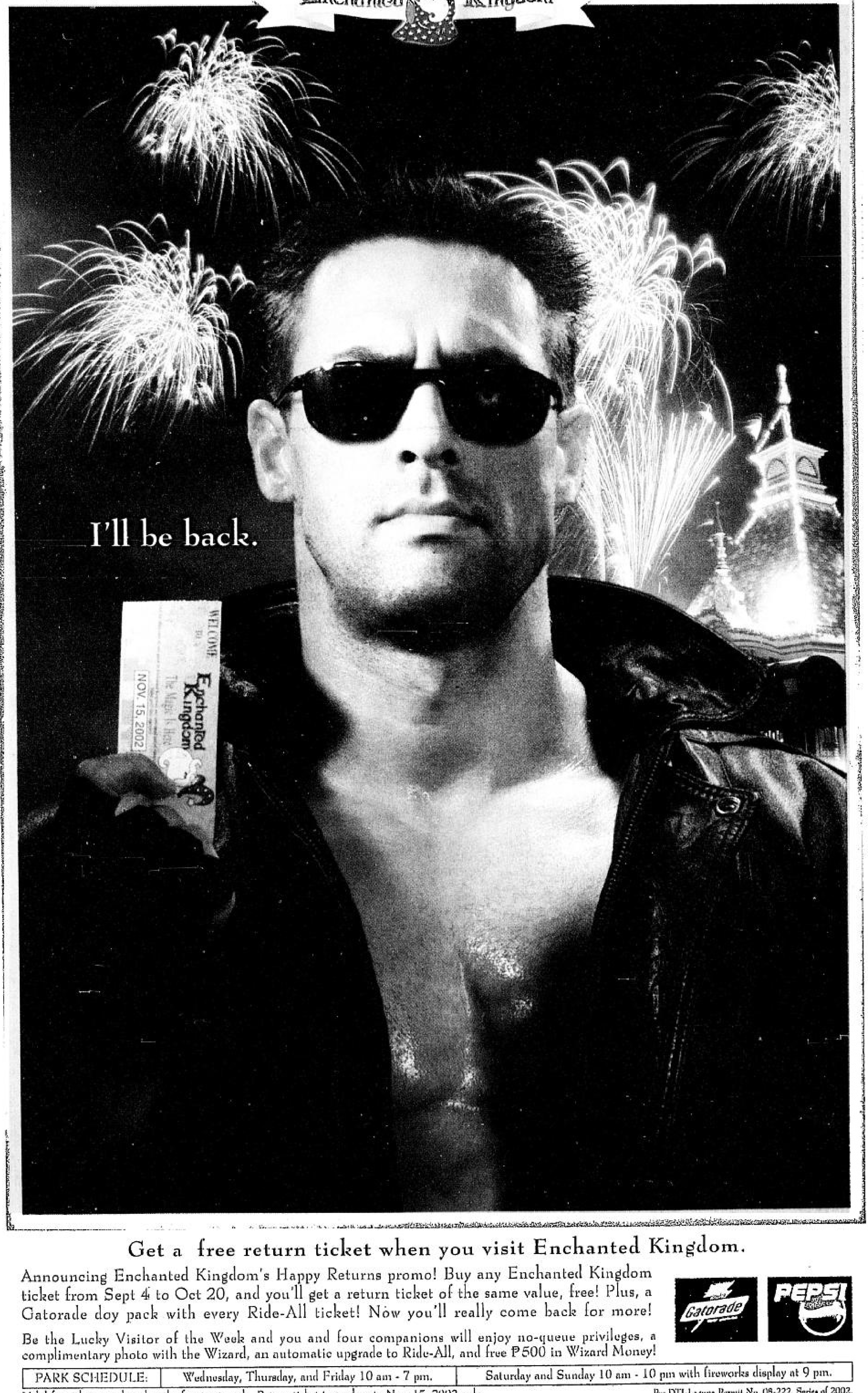

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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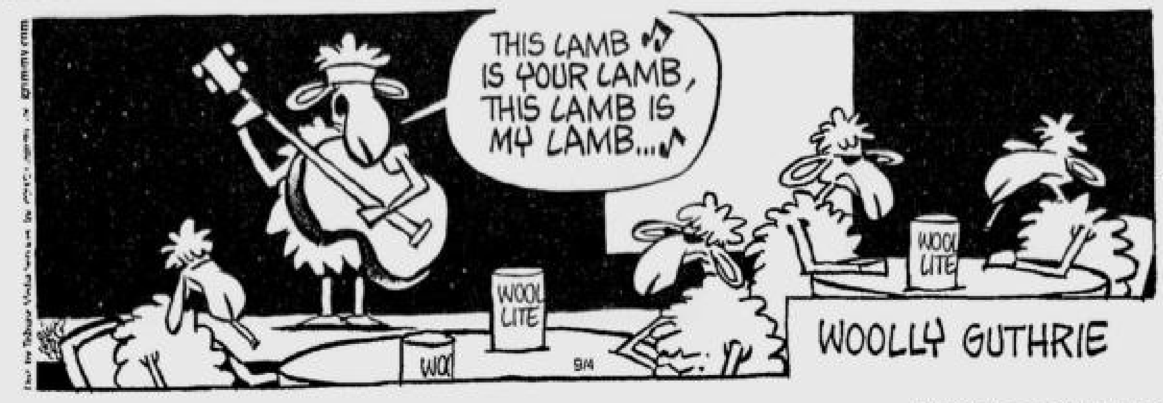
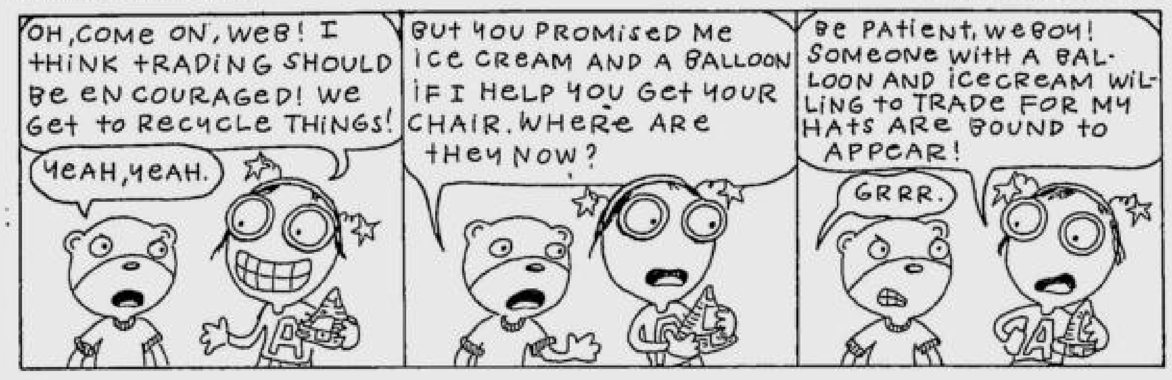
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

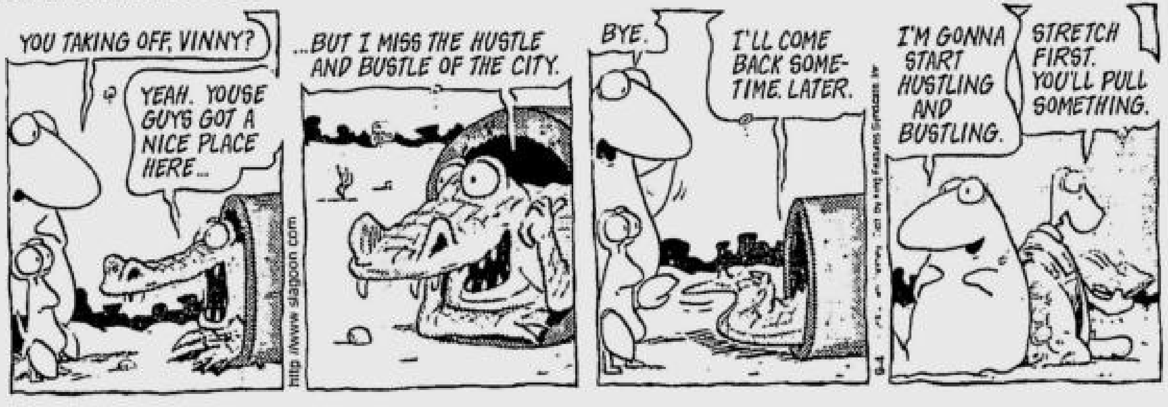
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


THIS LAMB IS YOUR LAMB, THIS LAMB IS MY LAMB...
WOOL LITE
WOOLLY GUTHRIE

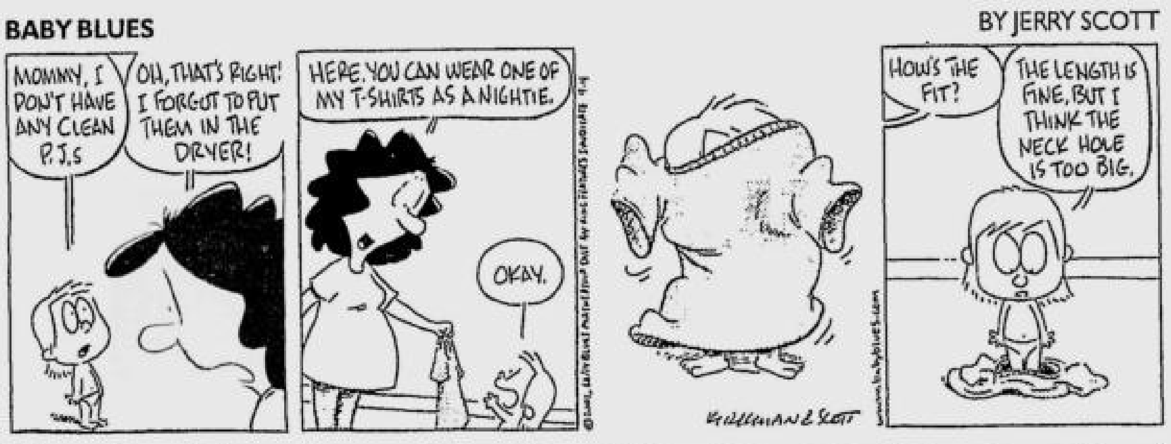
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH, COME ON, WEB! I THINK TRADING SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED! WE GET TO RECYCLE THINGS!
YEAH, YEAH.
BUT YOU PROMISED ME ICE CREAM AND A BALLOON IF I HELP YOU GET YOUR CHAIR. WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
BE PATIENT, WEBOY! SOMEONE WITH A BALLOON AND ICECREAM WILLING TO TRADE FOR MY HATS ARE BOUND TO APPEAR!
GRRR.

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


YOU TAKING OFF, VINNY?
YEAH. YOUSE GUYS GOT A NICE PLACE HERE...
...BUT I MISS THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CITY.
BYE.
I'LL COME BACK SOMETIME. LATER.
I'M GONNA START HUSTLING AND BUSTLING.
STRETCH FIRST. YOU'LL PULL SOMETHING.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY, I DON'T HAVE ANY CLEAN P.J.S
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I FORGOT TO PUT THEM IN THE DRYER!
HERE. YOU CAN WEAR ONE OF MY T-SHIRTS AS A NIGHTIE.
OKAY.
HOW'S THE FIT?
THE LENGTH IS FINE, BUT I THINK THE NECK HOLE IS TOO BIG.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mitzi Gaynor, Tom Watson, Damon Wayans

Happy Birthday: Your ability to mix business with pleasure will be the key to your success. You will have innovative ideas and everyone will look to you for answers. You will be strong-willed and determined to do things that are constructive. This should be an exciting year for you. Your numbers are 7, 11, 13, 26, 38, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Planning a quiet day at home may turn out to be disappointing. Get out with friends instead. Some challenging physical activity should help to boost your energy and your spirit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's time to deal with the bureaucratic vista--return those phone calls and personal e-mails. Then relax. Be impervious to the sense of betrayal an in-law or close friend may provoke in you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gratuitous purchases are a bad idea for the moment. Put your money into entertaining yourself for a while. Once you master something new, there is no telling what you might do with your new talent.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your family may not be too interested in your complaints, criticisms or disgruntled attitude. Just try to be calm. It won't always be like this, so learn to let things be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have a tendency to take on too much as well as overindulge today. Pace yourself before it's too late or you may find yourself in a mess. It's a good time to make adjustments at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be feeling critical of certain friends right now, but it may not be a good time to discuss the matter. Secret enemies may be waiting for you to get into a heart-to-heart talk. You mustn't trust what others tell you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can count on the people around you to do whatever they can to help you reach your destination. The more you talk about what it is you are trying to accomplish, the easier it will become to get the assistance you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be very frugal and don't share for the moment. The time to look out for yourself is now, and the sooner you start putting your cash away for a rainy day, the better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be confident and attractive to others, but when it comes to your family, you need to maintain your humility. Be careful about what you say to whom. Be honest and direct.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Unpredictable distractions may disrupt some of the relationships in your life. You may want to backtrack to turn a wrong into a right, especially if you acted in haste.

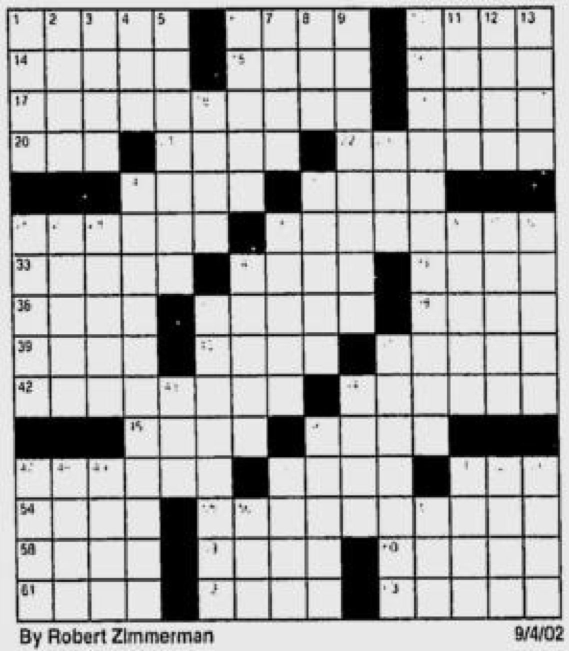
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone in a position of power in your life may want to damage your reputation. Don't be too quick to make changes. You may be feeling unsettled, but now is not the time to leap.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): People may want to pull you in all sorts of directions today, but if you become a chameleon, you'll never get your point across. Listen to what others say, but form your own opinions.

Birthday Baby: You will do everything with finesse and confidence. You will always take a lead position in any group you join.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
9/4/02

ACROSS
1 Mythical weightlifter
6 Evening in Bologna
10 Mid-month
14 Keen
15 Short beep
16 Gold Rush boomtown
17 Eating meeting?
19 Heavy reading
20 Dawn's early light
21 Helps out
22 1996 British Open champion
24 Bailiff's call: var.
25 "Final Analysis" star
26 Spectacles
29 Perceived
33 Recorded
34 Bond type
35 Judicial garment
36 At one time
37 Wild fear
38 Fertilizer compound
39 Declare openly
40 Tiny pests
41 Knot
42 Summer serving
44 Regatta lineup
45 Gestures of affection
46 Shrubbery
47 At work
50 Singer Perry
51 Put on TV
54 Horse color
55 Rely on instinct
58 Larger-than-life story
59 Not new
60 Start of a path?
61 Netting
62 Soaks up rays
63 Dens

DOWN
1 Egyptian cobras
2 Biblical pronoun
3 Mown expanse
4 Exist
5 Used aerosol
6 Writer Terkel
7 Ages and ages and ages
8 Big bird of legend
9 Physically strong
10 When the chips are down
11 Dire fate
12 Madame Bovary
13 Spotted
18 Tall tales
23 Before, briefly
24 Boxer's tactic
25 Lamp dweller
26 One way to get to second
27 Whittle
28 Derby site
29 Ninny
30 Pentateuch
31 Critic Roger
32 Bargains
34 Some hotel employees
37 Egg-laying mammal
41 Alternative fuel
43 Writer Hentoff
44 Arizona city
46 Stephen and Billy
47 City near Provo
48 Curt negative
49 Platform
50 Normandy town
51 Pro's opponent
52 Bakery worker
53 Greek letters
56 Fighting Tigers' sch.
57 NAFTA participant

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	S	A	I	■	E	R	G	O	■	B	O	N	E
D	O	L	L	S	■	R	E	A	R	■	I	R	O	N
A	L	A	M	O	■	R	E	N	D	■	G	I	V	E
R	O	Y	A	L	G	O	R	G	E	■	T	E	A	M
■	■	■	■	D	O	L	E	■	A	S	H	L	E	Y
M	E	R	G	E	D	■	C	E	L	L	I	■	■	■
A	V	E	R	■	E	S	T	S	■	I	C	E	U	P
C	E	N	A	C	L	E	■	N	A	P	K	I	N	S
K	R	O	N	A	■	T	R	E	F	■	E	R	I	S
■	■	■	D	U	L	S	E	■	L	A	T	E	S	T
C	O	B	B	L	E	■	S	O	A	R	■	■	■	■
O	L	L	A	■	G	R	E	A	T	L	A	K	E	S
A	D	E	N	■	M	A	N	S	■	I	T	A	L	O
S	I	N	K	■	A	R	T	E	■	S	O	N	A	R
T	E	D	S	■	N	E	S	S	■	S	M	E	L	T

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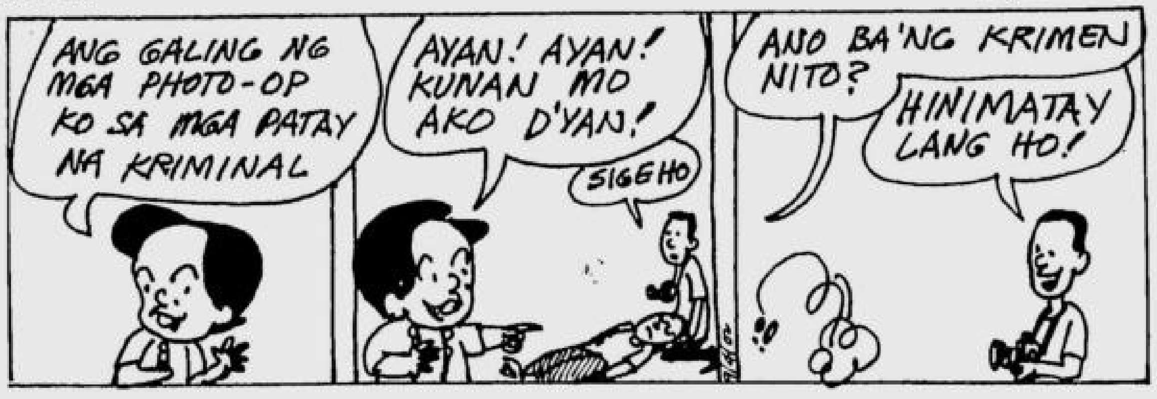
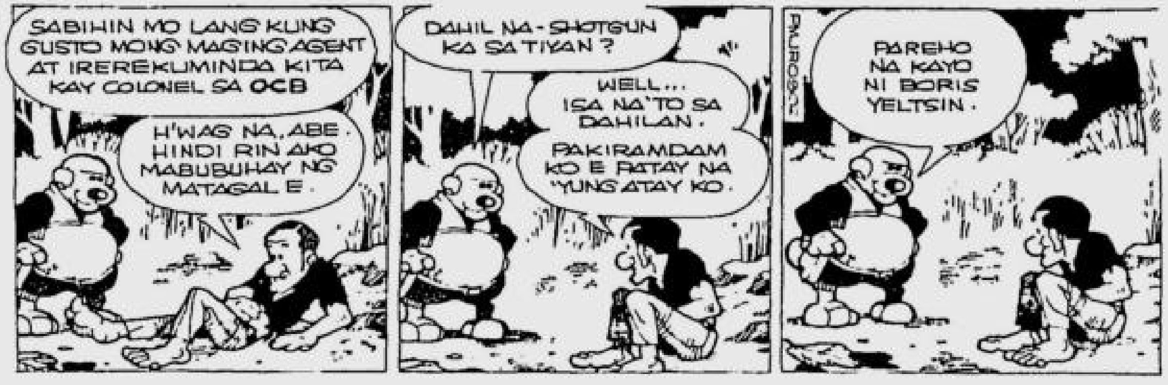
9/4/02

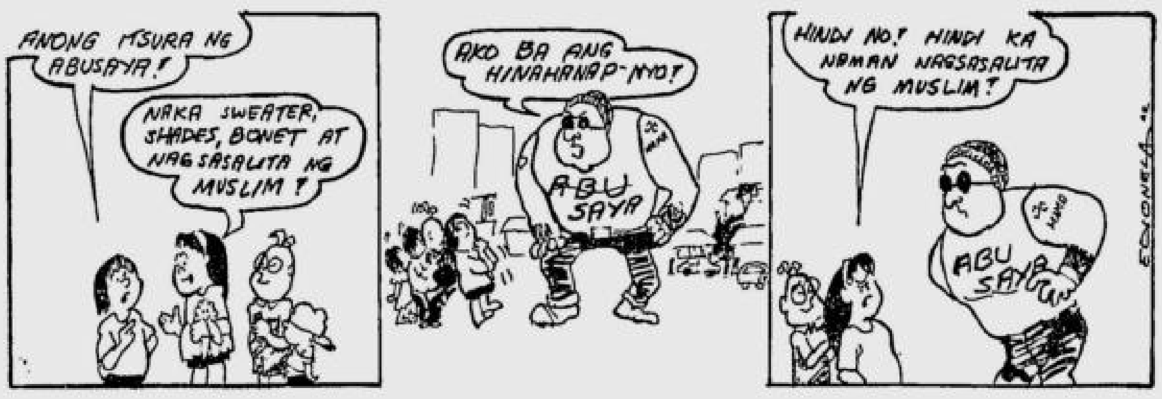
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GALING NG MGA PHOTO-OP KO SA MGA PATAY NA KRIMINAL
AYAN! AYAN! KUNAN MO AKO D'YAN!
SIGE HO
ANO BA'NG KRIMEN NITO?
HINIMATAY LANG HO!

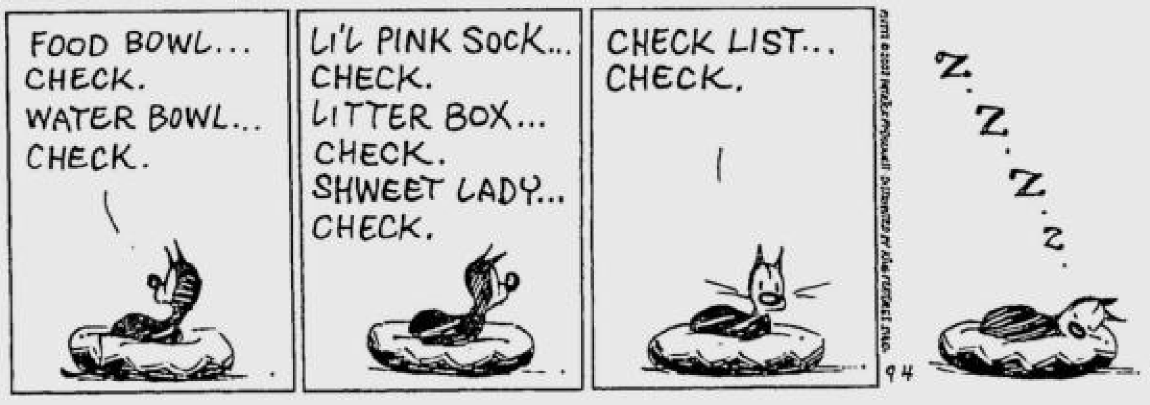
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABIHIN MO LANG KUNG GUSTO MONG MAGING AGENT AT IREREKUMINDA KITA KAY COLONEL SA OCB
H'WAG NA, ABE. HINDI RIN AKO MABUBUHAY NG MATAGAL E.
DAHIL NA-SHOTGUN KA SA TIYAN?
WELL... ISA NA'TO SA DAHILAN.
PAKIRAMDAM KO E PATAY NA 'YUNG ATAY KO.
PAREHO NA KAYO NI BORIS YELTSIN.
PMJR

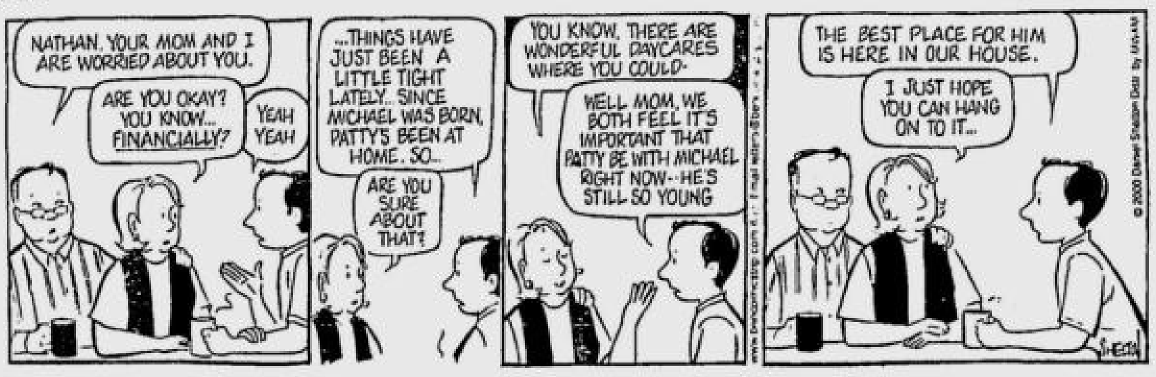
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG ITSURA NG ABUSAYA!
NAKA SWEATER, SHADES, BONET AT NAGSASALITA NG MUSLIM!
AKO BA ANG HINAHANAP-NYO?
ABU SAYA
HINDI NO! HINDI KA NAMAN NAGSASALITA NG MUSLIM?
EDIONELA

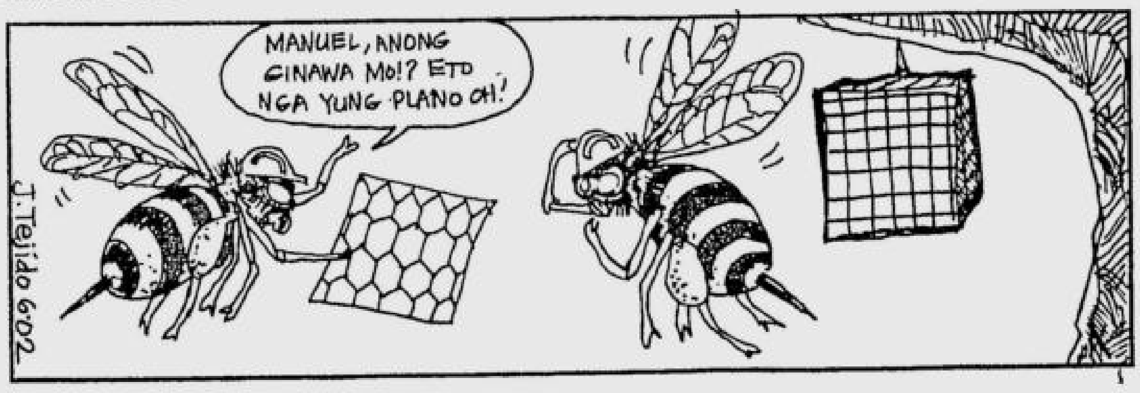
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FOOD BOWL... CHECK. WATER BOWL... CHECK.
LI'L PINK SOCK... CHECK. LITTER BOX... CHECK. SHWEET LADY... CHECK.
CHECK LIST... CHECK.
Z. Z. Z. Z.
9 4

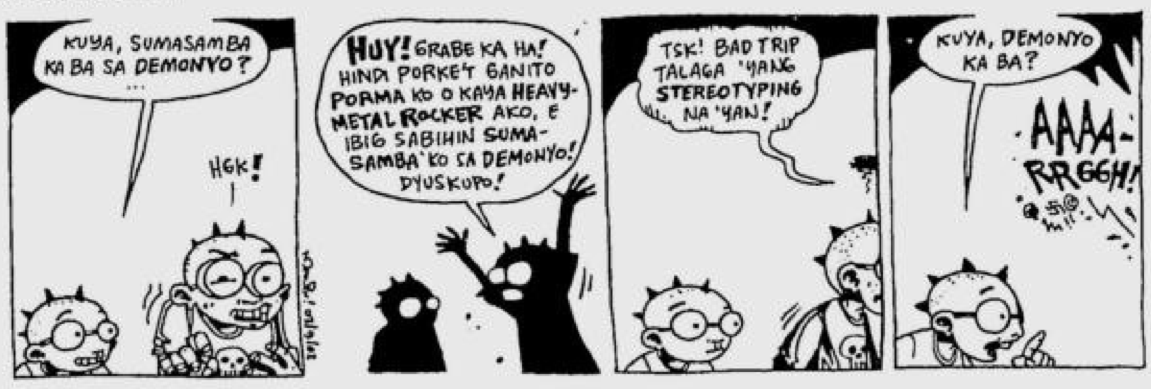
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


NATHAN. YOUR MOM AND I ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU KNOW... FINANCIALLY?
YEAH YEAH
...THINGS HAVE JUST BEEN A LITTLE TIGHT LATELY.. SINCE MICHAEL WAS BORN, PATTY'S BEEN AT HOME. SO..
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE WONDERFUL DAYCARES WHERE YOU COULD-
WELL MOM, WE BOTH FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT THAT PATTY BE WITH MICHAEL RIGHT NOW--HE'S STILL SO YOUNG
THE BEST PLACE FOR HIM IS HERE IN OUR HOUSE.
I JUST HOPE YOU CAN HANG ON TO IT...
SHELTON

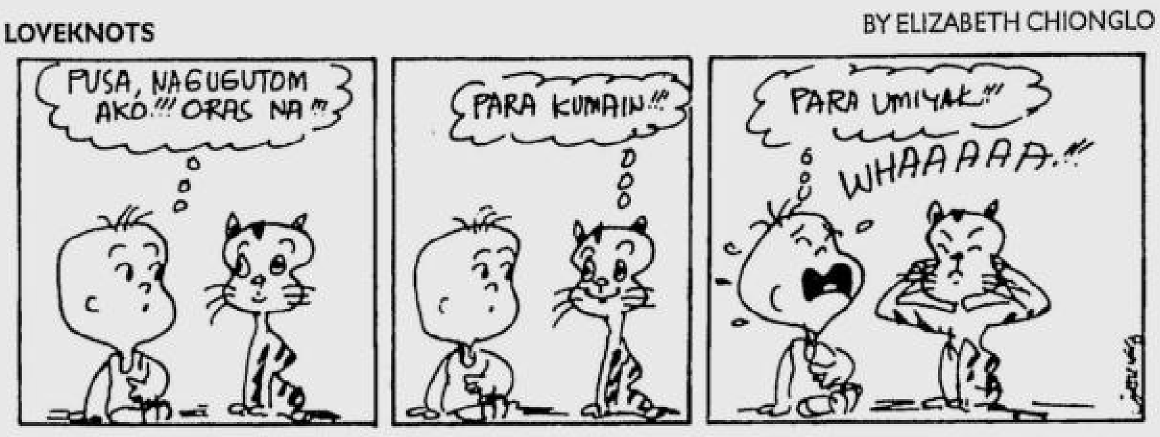
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MANUEL, ANONG GINAWA MO!? ETO NGA YUNG PLANO OH!
J. Tejido 6'02

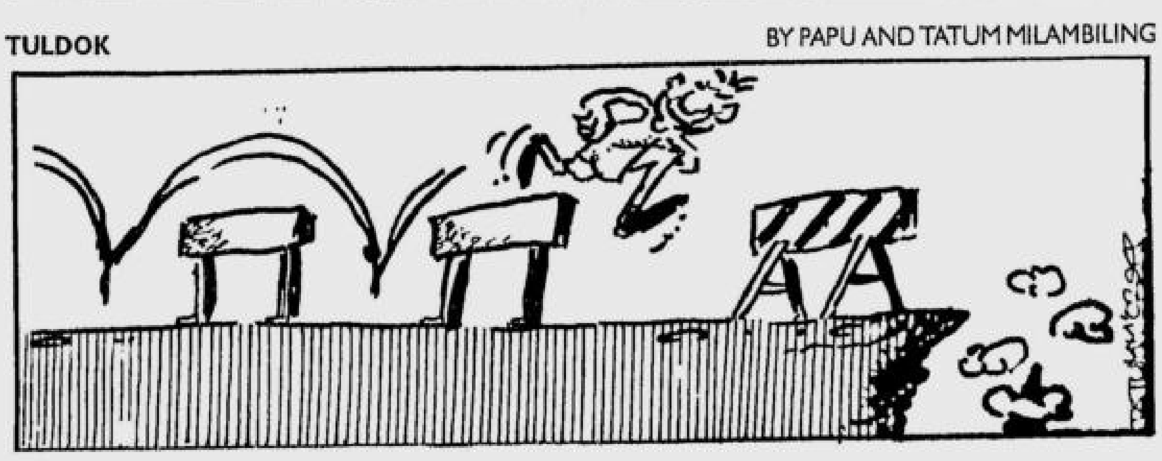
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KUYA, SUMASAMBA KA BA SA DEMONYO? ...
HGK!
HUY! GRABE KA HA! HINDI PORKE'T GANITO PORMA KO O KAYA HEAVY-METAL ROCKER AKO, E IBIG SABIHIN SUMASAMBA' KO SA DEMONYO! DYUSKUPO!
TSK! BAD TRIP TALAGA 'YANG STEREOTYPING NA 'YAN!
KUYA, DEMONYO KA BA?
AAAA-RRGGH!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, NAGUGUTOM AKO!!! ORAS NA!!!
PARA KUMAIN!!!
PARA UMIYAK!!!
WHAAAAAA.!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Backstage at the MTV Video Music Awards

From page D1

at today's classical music-clueless generation—followed that up with: "That's an opera."

Ever the rabid New Yorker, he later explained why he decided to grace the show. "One of the reasons I wanted to attend this thing tonight is to thank [MTV] for holding this event in New York," he said, "and also for all the work that so many of the artists and musicians have done over the last year, entertaining people that were connected to the tragedy that happened on Sept. 11. All of these artists really went the extra mile to help us, so I thought maybe I could just say thank you to them for all that they've done."

Timberlake superior?

Hands down, the most anticipated performance of the evening was Justin Timberlake's solo debut. Even best new artist nominee John Mayer conceded to the INQUIRER: "I think that if I were him, if I had as much as he has going on musically, [this is] the opportunity to show it completely unadulterated. I think he's great."

Unfortunately, the reedy-voiced popster's number turned out to be anything but "'n sync" with people's expectations. Although his song "Like I Love You" had some booty-shaking hooks and Timberlake showcased some nifty Michael Jackson-esque moves, overall, the performance felt like little more than an extended solo riff from an 'N Sync video.

Blast from the past: Part 1

Ladies and gentlemen, please don't adjust your TV sets: yes, this is still the MTV Video Music Awards, not an old "Behind the Music" episode of faded rockers of yore.

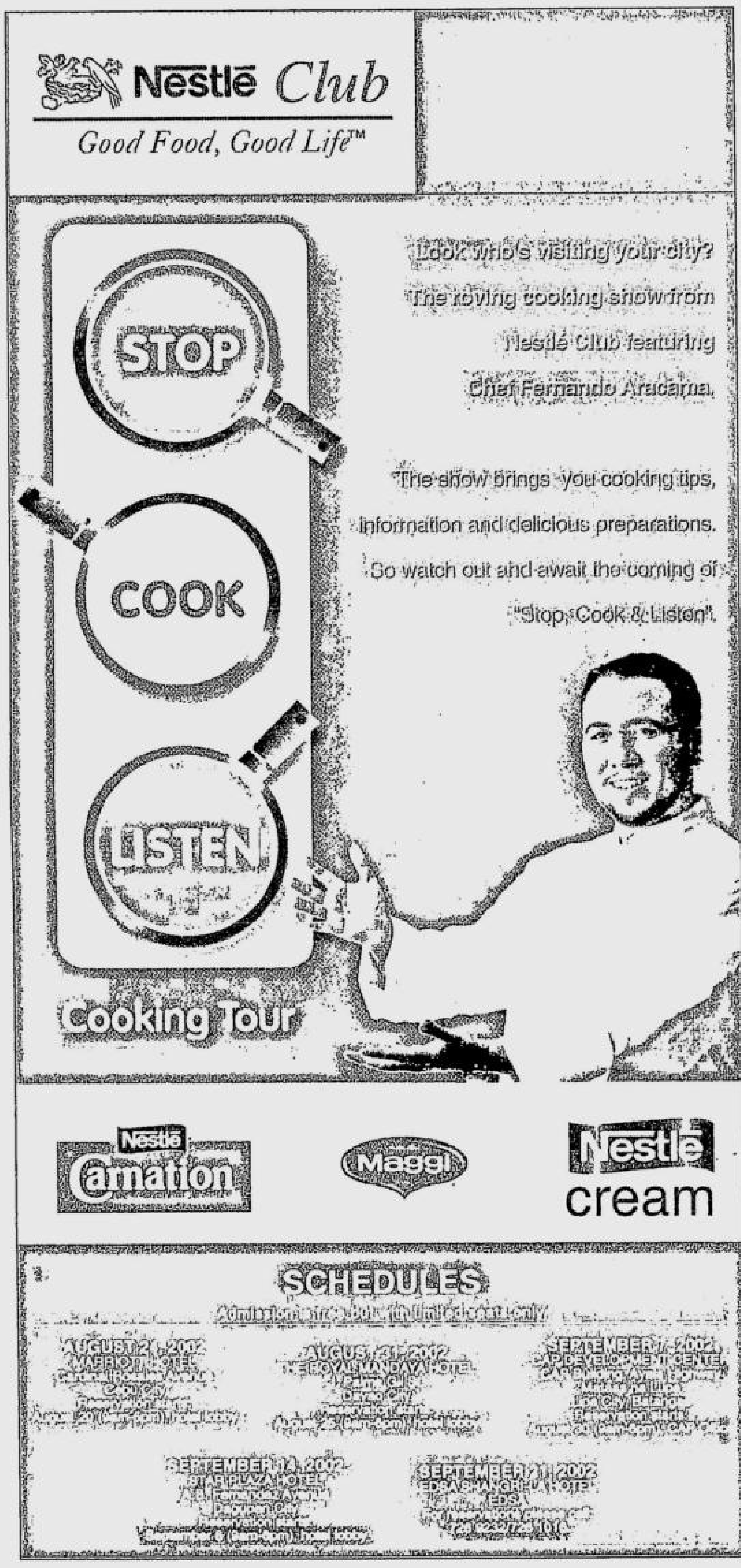
Eighties musical dinosaurs David Lee Roth and Sammy Hagar of Van Halen made head-scratching appearances, prompting many to wonder whether young fans weaned on Slim Shady even knew who the two were. Roth seemed genuinely whacked-out. When asked about rap group Nappy Roots, he replied: "I used to date a stripper by that name!" Maybe he left his mental screws in the '80s, too.

Blast from the past: Part 2

Wow! Mark Wahlberg is now a metal rocker with long braids! Wait, that wasn't Mark Wahlberg performing "Welcome to the Jungle" at the end of the show. It was...Axl Rose from Guns N' Roses?

The rocker-screamer who shied away from the spotlight in the '90s now emerges looking eerily like erstwhile rapper Marky Mark and—scarier still—looking like he's had a Greta Van Susteren-worthy facelift. Guess Rose went during his hiatus knock-knock-knockin' on a plastic surgeon's door.

THE COLOR OF SEDUCTION. Pink fuses flair and fashion.



Nestlé Club
Good Food, Good Life™

STOP
COOK
LISTEN
Cooking Tour

Look who's visiting your city?
The roving cooking show from
Nestlé Club featuring
Chef Fernando Aracama.

The show brings you cooking tips,
information and delicious preparations.
So watch out and await the coming of
"Stop, Cook & Listen".

Nestlé Carnation
Maggi
Nestlé cream

SCHEDULES
Admission is free but with limited seats only

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MARRIOTT HOTEL
[illegible]

AUGUST 31, 2002
THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL
[illegible]
Davao City

SEPTEMBER 7, 2002
[illegible] DEVELOPMENT CENTER
[illegible]

SEPTEMBER 14, 2002
STAR PLAZA HOTEL
[illegible]

SEPTEMBER 21, 2002
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
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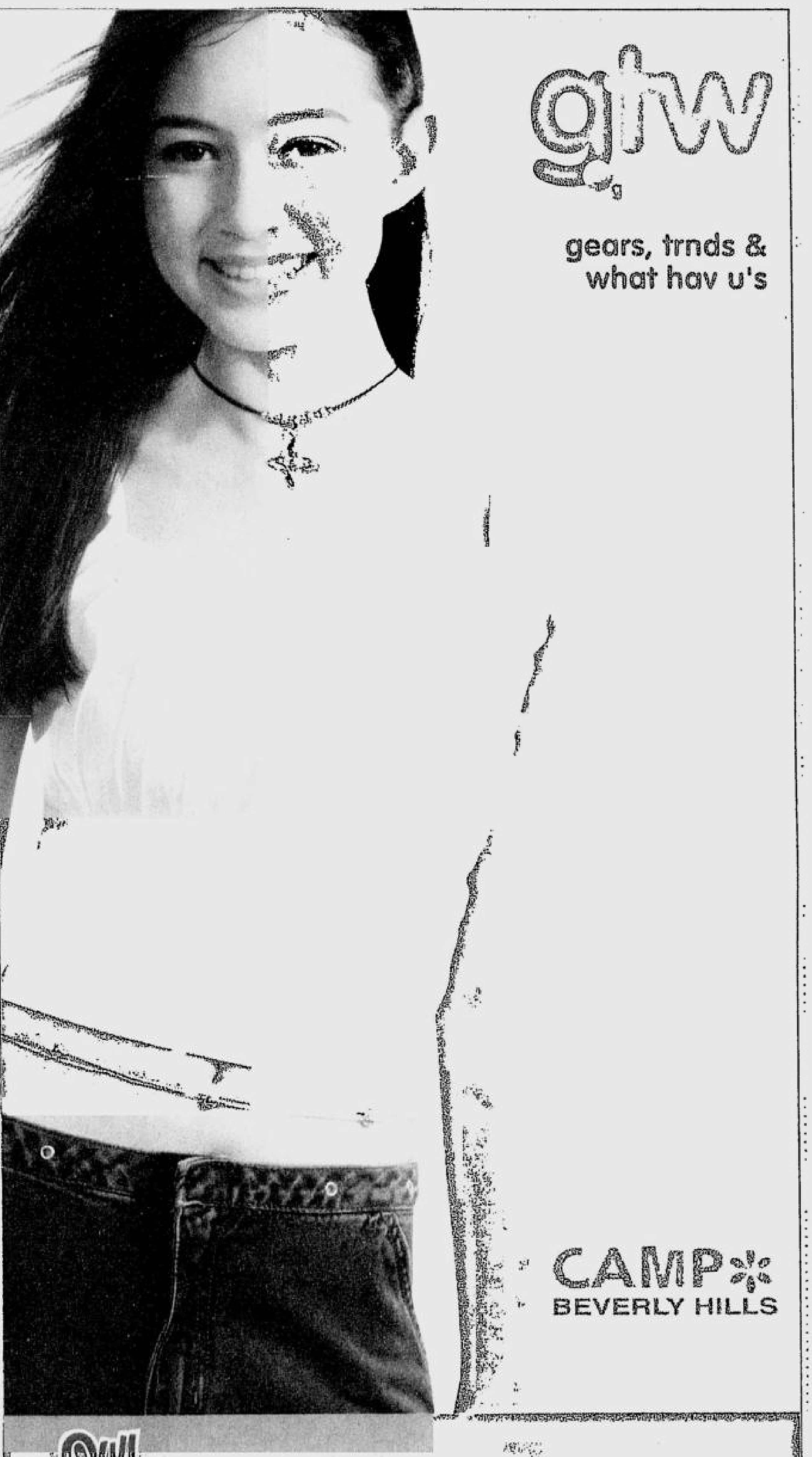

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AY! PUSO!
Ang sarap ng Goldilocks Kare-kare!
Goldilocks

CINDERELLAS IN GOLD. Camille Cruz-Reyes and her roster of Beyonce clones at the Joey 92.3 "Goldmember" Austin Powers party

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

IT CHICK. Isabel Roces pulsates with effortless élan

STYLE SWANS. Maria Parsons and Ines Delgado embody the scene's bright young things.

JOEY AND HER PRINCE. Ritchie Santos and Ria Romero of Joey 92.3

Yeah, baby—behave!

Tim Yap

GROOVY, glittering and all glammed-up, the Joey 92.3 premiere screening at the Power Plant of this season's most "shaga-delic" pick had Manila's sexy beasts and foxy chicks, all in a mad dash for a date with everyone's favorite international man of mystery, who else but dandy Mr. Austin Powers!

With a string of hot, hot movie premieres, concerts and bar tours, Joey is trailblazing the FM scene, giving a boost to hip yuppies out for soothing sounds and exciting events, just like the station's savvy slogan, "Who your radio should be."

Faster than you can say Destiny's Child, the cinema lobby had nasty girl-Beyonce clones (all clad in Cinderella clothes) going around, giving away giant Standard Chartered gold cards to the VVIP guests who were feasting on Oliver's healthy treats and Fruit Magic power shakes.

DESTINY'S CHILD. Model of the moment and Paris Hilton lookalike Nicolette Bell

Later, these badges served as the golden pass to that glimmering go-go-gold rush after-party at the night's happening hub—Mati, where the scene's partyphiles lounged to the chill, lush and opulent beats of DJs **Carlo Ocampo** and **Inkee Hidalgo** that tantric Tuesday night.

From gilded table tops to gold-plated Greek statues, **Jun Jun Ablaza** transformed Mati into a shagalific den where partyphiles showed up in their "oh-riginal" goldmembered attires—the lucky ones got L'Oreal gift packs, Lush living kits and Chivas Regal bottles. Joey's quintet of **Marco Borlongan**, **Bi-Anne Tupas**, **Cris Golamco**, **Jett Carpio** and **Ria Romero**, who were responsible for the glistening turnout, gyrated their guts out and entertained the night's gold-clad guests, all members of the city's hot, young set.

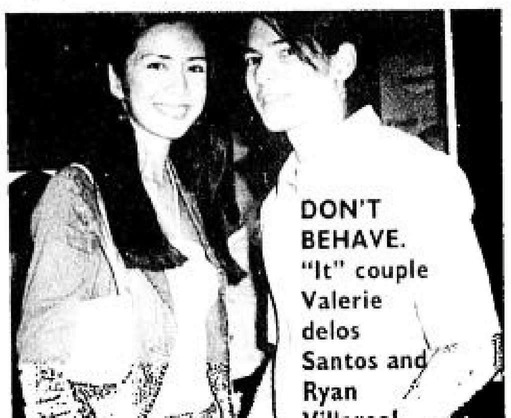
GOLD COUPLE. Sheila Bermudez and Les Romero

Oh behave!

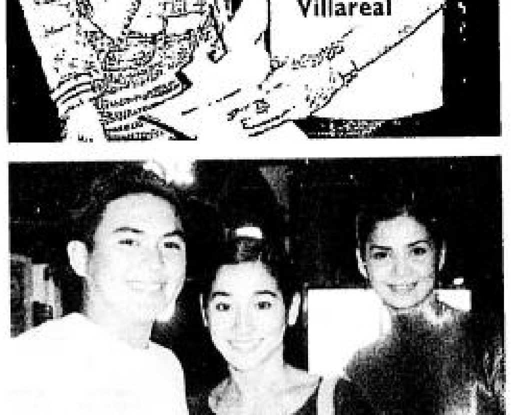
Party of the week

After all that behaving, it's time for some misbehavin' this Saturday as MTV launches "Rockd!" Come as your favorite rock icon to—where else?—Hard Rock Café, and get ready to rock around the clock! The following Saturday, come in your Brit pop best as MTV brings "The Osbournes" to Manila! Yes, the show is on its way to our airwaves this month—so watch out for this not-to-be-missed reality MTV show!

And while we're on the subject of MTV, did you know that you stand the chance of winning a Jaguar just by tuning in to the music channel? At the risk of sounding like a telly commercial—just watch and wait for the Cecon logo, and write down all the times it was aired, and drop the entry in drop boxes. Who knows? You may just bring home that Jag. I know I want one. It's time to pop some vitamins, baby!



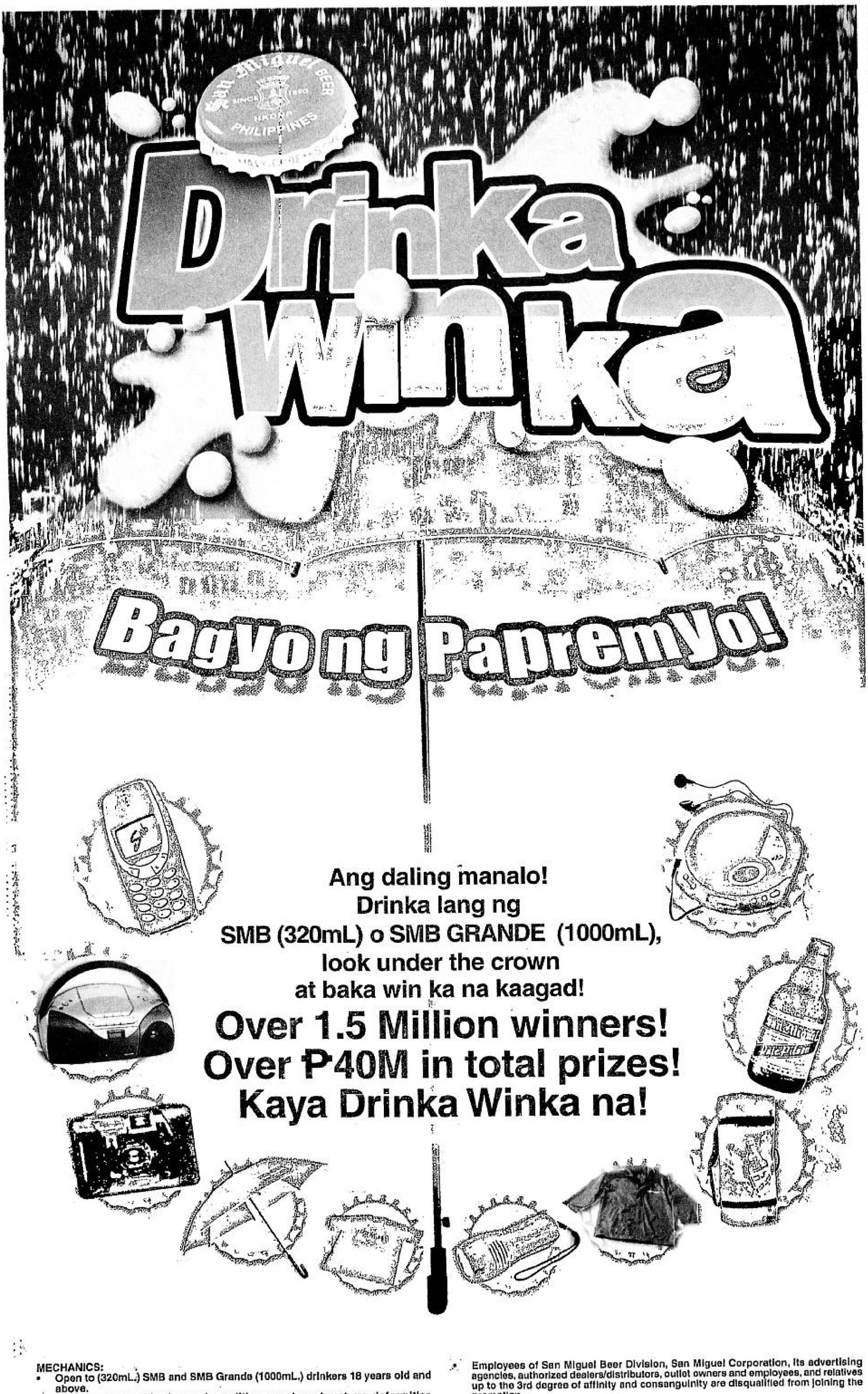
DON'T BEHAVE. "It" couple Valerie delos Santos and Ryan Villareal



PREMIERE PARTY. Bernard Dy and China Cojuangco with Antoinette Ocampo

MOVIES AND MAGIC. Anna Cruz, Manolet Dario and Giselle Sityar

JOEY AND FRIENDS. Cris Golamco and the Standard Chartered gold team



Ang daling manalo!
Drinka lang ng
SMB (320mL) o SMB GRANDE (1000mL),
look under the crown
at baka win ka na kaagad!

Over 1.5 Million winners!
Over ₱40M in total prizes!
Kaya Drinka Winka na!

MECHANICS:
- Open to (320mL.) SMB and SMB Grande (1000mL.) drinkers 18 years old and above.
- The crowns must be in good condition, no sign of rust, no deformities and plastic liners should be intact.
- Winning crowns may be redeemed at the following:
  - Free beer at all participating retail outlets.
  - Other prizes at the nearest SMBD sales offices nationwide.
- Employees of San Miguel Beer Division, San Miguel Corporation, its advertising agencies, authorized dealers/distributors, outlet owners and employees, and relatives up to the 3rd degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
- SMBD reserves the right to validate the winning crowns.
- Winners of non-beer items must claim their prizes in person at any Sales Office on or before January 31, 2003. (Prizes not claimed after this date will be forfeited in favor of San Miguel Beer Division). Winners should bring one valid ID with picture.

Actual colors of prizes may vary. Promo period is from Aug. 15 to Nov. 15, 2002. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0678. Series of 2002. Drink Moderately.